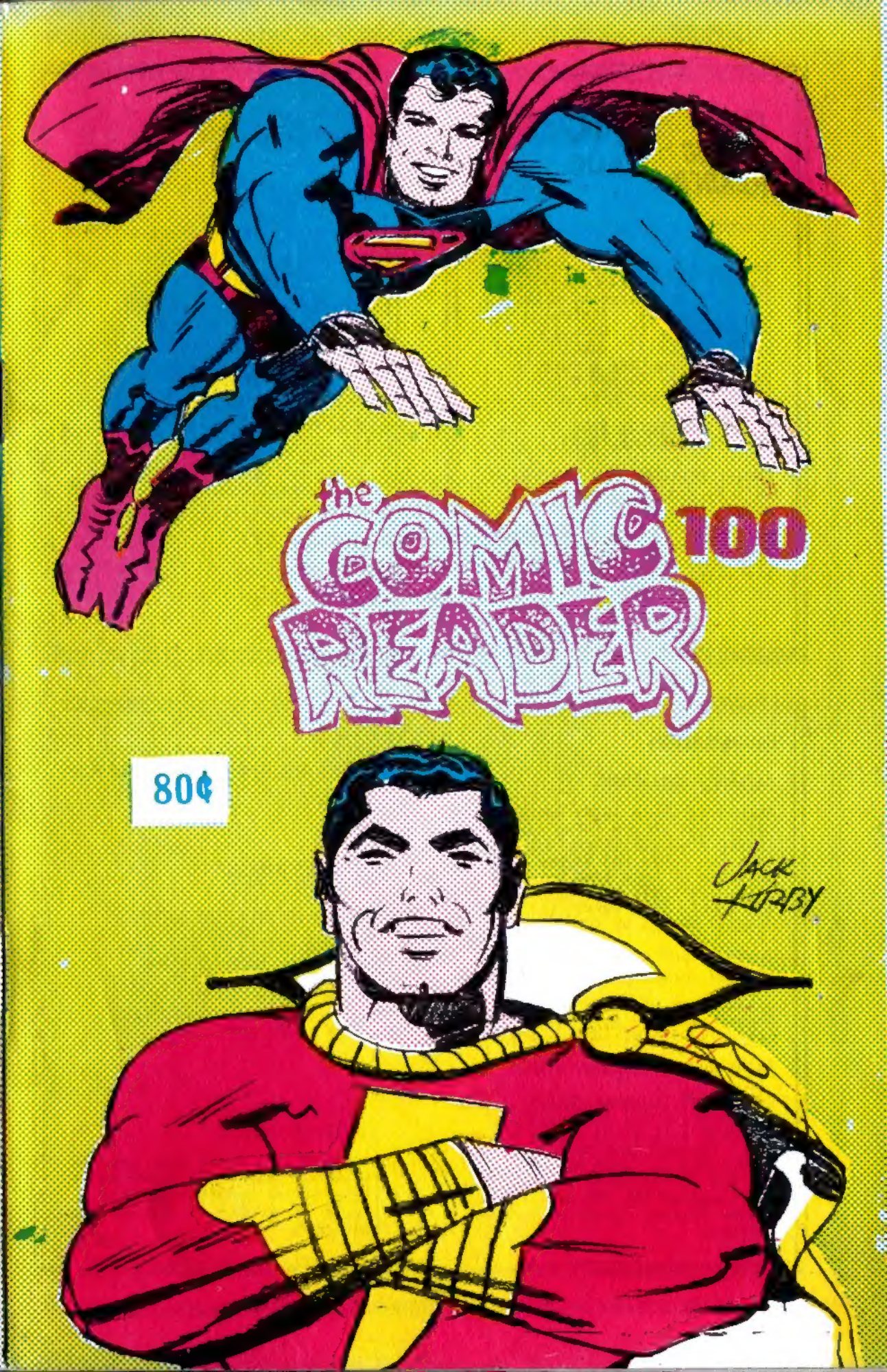
the COMIC READER
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JACK KIRBY

THE COMIC READER

100 AUG-SEPT

THE COMIC READER is published monthly by TCR PUBLICATIONS, 393 East 58th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11203. (Shipping Address: Box 23, Brooklyn, New York 11203) Phone: (212) 451-2760 evenings & weekends. Paul Levitz, Editor & Publisher. Paul Kupperberg, Asst. Ed.

Volume #1, Issue #100, August-September, 1973.

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Printed in the USA by Interstate Printing, 444 62 Street, West New York, New Jersey.

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INFORMATION

LATENESS DEPARTMENT

August is not a lucky month around here. Out of the three August issues I've published, one never came out (original Etcetera #7) and this one is more than a wee bit late. Oh well, you can't win all the time! I am sorry, but it was totally beyond my control.

SUBSCRIPTION & BACK ISSUE & AD & DEALERS DEPARTMENT

Please note the very important announcement in this issue's Letter To The Editor section.

PRINT RUN THIS MONTH: 4,000

COVER DEPT: Captain Marvel, Batman and Superman (c) characters of National Periodical Publications, Inc. Captain America (c) Marvel Comics Group. Used with permission. The art is obviously by JACK KIRBY, who receives the eternal gratitude of the editor. Coloring by Carl Gafford.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

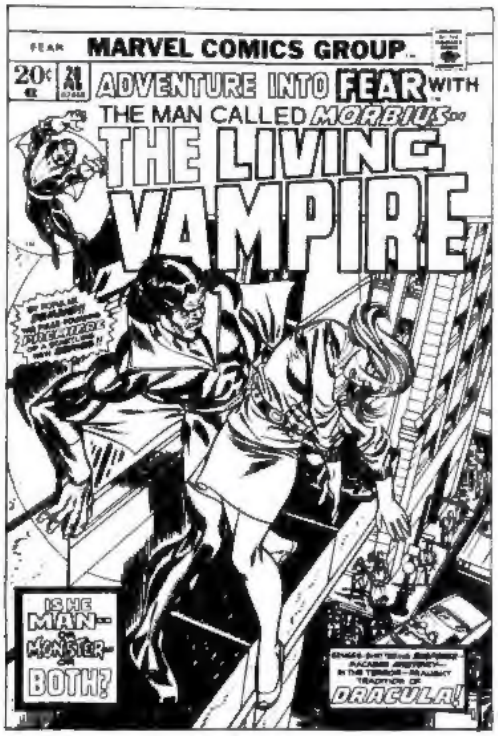
IMPORTANT NOTICE

SINCE THIS IS A DOUBLE ISSUE OF THE COMIC READER, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION LABEL HAS BEEN ADJUSTED TO SHOW ONE LESS ISSUE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO RUN UNTIL #103, IT NOW SHOWS #102.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A change of address form must be filed two weeks before you move. Students may request specific issues to be sent to specific addresses.

TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED TO CREATE THE FIRST 100 ISSUES OF



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MARVEL

DEPARTMENT OF MARVEL MADCAP ASSIGNMENT SWITCHING:

Mike Friedrich is scripting three issues of Captain America and The Falcoln, following a Roy Thomas-Tony Isabella fill-in issue. After that Steve Englehart will return to the typewriter. Steve is relocating to California, and this is causing fill-ins on almost all his books.

Thongor will be produced by the team of Steve Gerber and Vincente Alcazar in the future.

Steve Englehart will be dialoging Captain Marvel for Jim Starlin in the future.

After a period of indecision, it has been settled that Rich Buckler will take over the Fantastic Four, with Joe Sinnott remaining on as inker.

The Morbius color series is now being written by Steve Gerber and will be illoed by either Paul Gulacy or Gil Kane.

Roy Thomas is finally enlarging his writing work-load by taking over The Hulk, after an issue completed by Tony Isabella from a Roy Thomas plot.

Gil Kane is taking over the pencilling on The Black Panther series in Jungle Action. Future issues of JA will feature special pages in the back of the book instead of a reprint.

Steve Englehart has taken over Kull The Destroyer.

Steve Gerber is now scripting Son Of Satan in Marvel Spotlight. Herb Trimpe will probably remain on the art.

Marvel Two-In-One, the Thing team-up book, will now be done by Steve Gerber, Gil Kane and Joe Sinnott. Kane remains the regular artist on the other Team-Up book too.

New team on Sub-Mariner: Marv Wolfman, George Tuska and Vince Colletta.

SAVAGE TALES SUSPENDED: Pending sales figures, Savage Tales is being suspended with #3, listed in this month's Coming Comics.

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE THE HELP-WANTEDS DEPT: Crazy magazine's second issue features the art of a political cartoonist named Greysmith who submitted samples after reading in TCR that the magazine needed more talented contributers from outside the comics field. Editor Marv Wolfman's still hunting for more people, gang, so take note!

Morbius will be starred in Fear in the future, with Man-Thing now in his own mag.

Shield, Ringo Kid, Millie, Chili, and Monsters On The Prowl are all being cancelled as Marvel clears out some reprints to make room for some new mags.

Mike Ploog is returning to Werewolf By Night, and Mike Friedrich has taken over the scripting chores.

Gerry Conway is now writing Sgt. Fury, after a monumental fill-in issue scripted by virtually the entire Marvel staff.

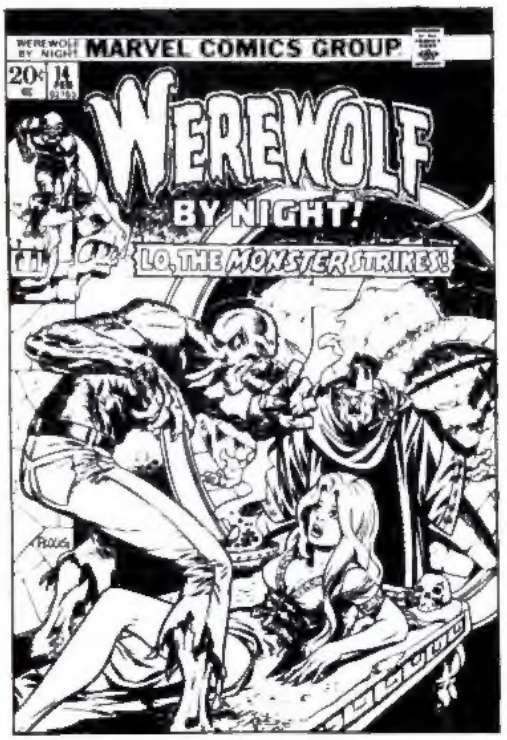
Roy Thomas and Dick Giordano are doing a serialized adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel for Dracula Lives.

Ghost Rider and Strange Tales featuring Brother Voodoo have been shifted to bi-monthly publication schedules. Giordano is now inking Voodoo.

Ka-Zar will now be illoed by Don Heck and Mike Royer.

Gerry Conway will be writing Worlds Unknown regularly, with his first adaptation--"Day Of The Triffids."

Dracula gets an eternal nemesis as as Cagliostro enters the scene in Dracula Lives #5, in a story (the first of several dealing with the character) written by Gerry Conway.



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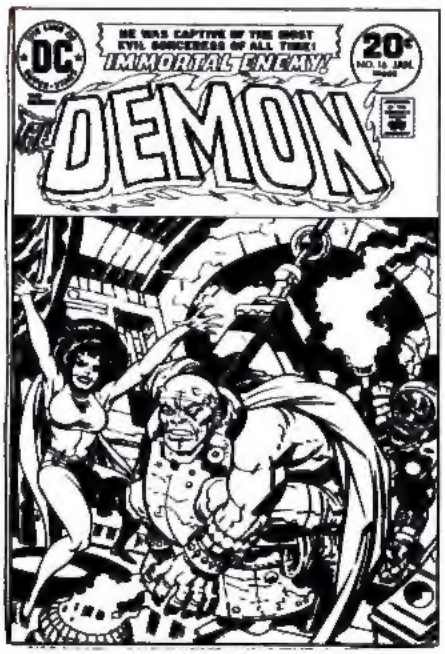
cover gallery



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SLOWLY THE MAN CRUMPLES TO THE SOFT JUNGLE FLOOR...
MY HEAD... SPINS! IT IS... THE END... FOR ME...
AS HE SINKS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS...
YET... IS IT ALL A DREAM? OR... DID I REALLY SEE HER...? PERHAPS... THE POISON HAS DRIVEN ME... INSANE...?
Rima the JUNGLE GIRL
PART 1 "SPIRIT OF THE WOODS"

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NATIONAL

TWO KIRBY TITLES CANCELLED - TWO NEW ONES IN PROGRESS

DEMON AND MISTER MIRACLE are being replaced by two new Kirby titles which are on the drawing board now. The Demon concludes with #16, and has a somewhat open ending. The last issue pits him against Morgaine LeFay, who debuted in the first issue of the mag. Mister Miracle winds up with the wedding of Scott & Barda (no joke), with a whole bundle of guest stars.

Joe Simon is working on a new project or two, and Bob Kanigher also has some new ideas in the works. Joe Kubert's new title, RIMA, is previewed this issue. It's a jungle adventure title written by Kubert and illoed by Nestor Redondo. In the back of every issue will be a sci-fi strip by Kanigher and Alex Nino. Rima isn't on the schedule yet, but it should be out next spring.

Sandman is on the schedule for release around Christmas.

ADVENTURE COMICS DEPARTMENT

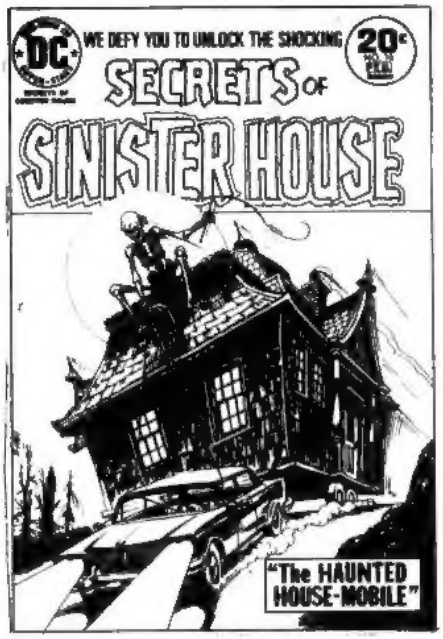
An unpublished Golden Age Seven Soldiers of Victory script was found in National's files in the process of moving the offices. A little bit of rewrite work, and poof--a Golden Age script with new art--due to appear as a serial in Adventure Comics #435-438 next summer and fall.

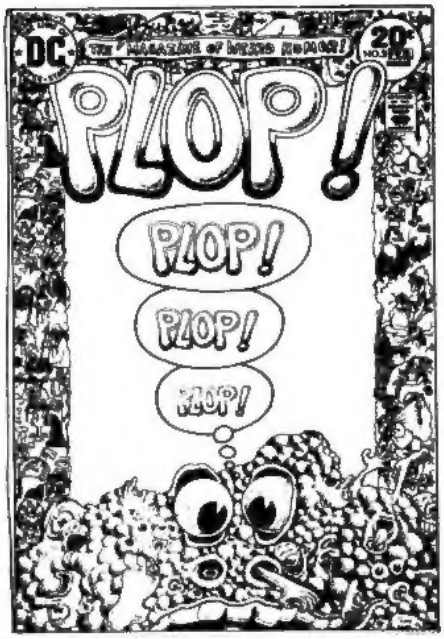
The Spectre series is continuing on a temporarily permanent basis. It begins in #431.

Capt. Fear returns as the back-feature in #432 and 433 and then vanishes into limbo.

New Aquaman stories by Steve Skeates and Ramona Fradon (who illustrated the series for about fifteen years) are in the works.

Julie Schwartz, now officially DC's Senior Editor, is picking up Supergirl and Wonder Woman. The first Schwartz-edited material begins in #11 and #212, respectively. Very little work has been done on either title, so it's too early to talk about details. Murray Boltinoff takes over Lois Lane with #138.





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Upcoming features in Secret Origins are The Legion of Super-Heroes and Blackhawk in #6, and Robin and Aquaman in #7.

Wonder Woman is guest-starring in a future issue of Lois Lane.

Russ Heath is still doing some of the Sgt. Rock stories, but he will no longer be the full-time artist. Both John Severin and George Evans will be doing stories, too.

There's a new DC symbol coming to the covers this fall--

Another book-length Flash-Green Lantern story coming up.

Joe Orlando and Mike Fleisher took over the scripting of Little Orphan Annie as of August 20.

In the team-up department, Batman is due to meet up with the Joker and the Metal Men in near-future issues of Brave & Bold. Vince Colletta is taking over the inking of World's Finest.

Shelly Mayer is recovering, but is not yet ready to resume a regular work schedule. Mike Fleisher is doing some Black Orchid scripting in the meantime.

SUPER-SPECTACULAR DEPARTMENT

The Justice League Super-Spec will feature three stories--a new JLA story guest-starring John Stewart, the black Green Lantern; a reprint of the JSA in "Plight Of A Nation" from All-Star Comics with art by Joe Kubert, Irwin Hasen, Carmine Infantino, Frank Giacoia and Alex Toth; and a JLA reprint winding up the Zatanna saga--"Z As In Zatanna" from #51.

The House of Mystery Super-Spec will feature a 36-page Bob Kanigher-Nestor Redondo gothic novel left over from the conversion of Sinister House to an ordinary mystery mag. The remaining material will probably be more modern than in most specs, since all the really good mysteries are fairly modern.

Murphy Anderson has become the new producer of the Army's P.S. magazine, and as a result will be doing a lot less inking for National. He is continuing on Korak, though, and after he gets set up at P.S. he will probably be doing some inking.

Bob Oksner will be doing some of the Superman inking.

The Superman Super-Spec is a magic issue, with three Golden Age Superman stories: "Mr. Mxyzptlk Returns" (the second imp adventure from Action 80), "The Magician's Convention" (with Hocus and Pocus, from Action #96), and "The Enchanted Mountain" (from Action #86). Also included is another Zatanna story, this time teaming her with Green Lantern on "The Other Side Of The World" and two modern super-family adventures: Jimmy Olsen in "The Demons From Pandora's Box" and Superman in "Beauty And The Super-Beast."

Detective will feature super-hero stories with a Dr. Fate, Kid Eternity and Golden Age Hawkman adventure on the schedule.

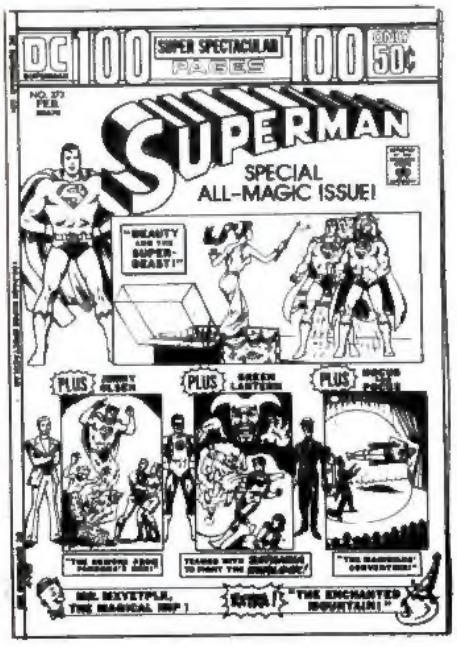
Batman Super-Specs will feature guiding themes every issue, with all the stories being Batman-related adventures. #254 is devoted to Batman in the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, and #255 will center on the Batman family.

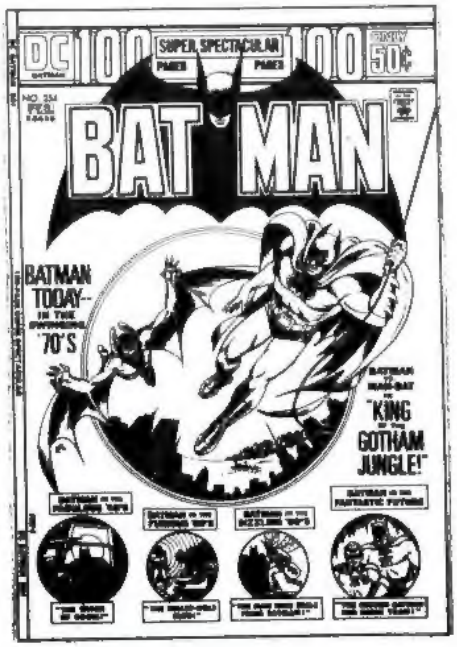
New material will be included in almost every 100-pager now. In some cases(Witching Hour and House of Mystery, for example) the new stuff will be holdovers from cancelled books or retired editors, but it is all up to today's standards being no more than three or four years old. The romance titles will include a full section of new material edited by Joe Simon, as well as reprints.

Detective Comics is due for a fill-in Batman story by Steve Englehart-Sal Amendola and Dick Giordano to ease Jim Aparo's schedule.

Congrats to Mike Uslan, who returned to law school from his NPP job complete with a lovely new wife named Nancy. Best of luck, folks!

Most Super-Specs will now feature special pages with puzzles and text articles. The puzzles are by Bob Rozakis, former lettercol hack.





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Coming Comics

COMING COMICS is a directory of upcoming releases from the various comic art publishers. The "on sale" dates are culled from the publishers' production schedules, and may vary in your area, depending on the perversions of your local wholesaler. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). A description of all known contents, credits for the feature/s given in this order: writer, artist, inker. (On sale date) (Price if not 20¢)

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DAREDEVIL (106, December). While the Ramrod pulverizes San Francisco, the monster Terrex is on the loose. And to top it off, DD regains his sight in "Life Be Not Proud". Script by Steve Gerber, with art by Don Heck and Sal Trapani. (8/28)

INCREDIBLE HULK (170, December). This is a fill-in issue written by Chris Claremont. Art is by Trimpe and Abel. (8/28)

KID COLT OUTLAW (177, December). (8/28)

MILLIE THE MODEL (207, December). (8/28)

CHILI (28, December). (8/28)

IRON MAN (65, December). Part three of the Dr. Spectrum series. Iron Man goes on a rampage as Dr. Spectrum's Power Prism takes over his mind. Script by Mike Friedrich, art by George Tuska and Mike Esposito. (8/28)

THE OUTLAW KID (19, December). (8/28)

WIERD WONDER TALES (1, December) A new science-fiction reprint magazine. (8/28)

* *

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (127, December). The beginning of a murder mystery involving Spidey's old foe The Vulture. Script is by Gerry Conway with art by Russ Andru and Frank Giacoia. (9/4)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (168, December). Cap faces a new villian called The Phoenix in this issue. Along with the action we get the origin of this new baddy. Script by Roy Thomas and Tony Isabella. Pencils by Sal Buscema and inks by George Roussos and John Tartaglione. (9/4)

TWO-GUN KID (115, December). (9/4)

THOR (218, December). Beginning a new three parter by Gerry Conway as Thor faces a threat that could destroy the universe in "The Five Planets of Death". Art by John Buscema and Jim Mooney. (9/4)

SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION (15, December). Now bi-monthly, SME switches over to new material with Shang-Chi, Master of Kung-Fu. This issue gives the origin of the son of Fu Manchu. Script is by Steve Englehart, with art by Jim Starlin and Al Milgrom. (9/4)

VAULT OF EVIL (8, December). (9/4)

DOC SAVAGE (8, December). This issue concludes "The Brand of the Werewolf" adaptation by Tony Isabella, as well as the magazine. Also in this issue Pat Savage joins up with her cousin and his group. Art is by Rich Buckler and Jack Abel. (9/4)

X-MEN (85, December). This issue should contain "We, The Jury" by Stan Lee and Roy Thomas, with art by Don Heck from X-Men #37. (9/4)

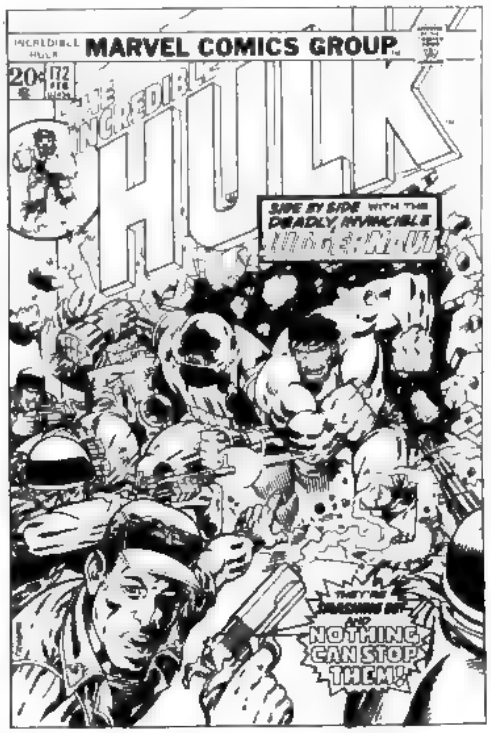
DEAD OF NIGHT (1, December). (9/4)

TALES OF THE ZOMBIE (3, December). The Zombie finds out what happens "When The Gods Crave Flesh", by Steve Gerber, with art by Pablo Marcos. Gilgamesh, The Eternal Warrior makes his debut this issue in a story by Tony Isabella. Art on this new feature is being handled by Vincente Alcazar. Also in this issue is Jilimoi's Word by Doug Moench and Enric Badia. Articles this time around by Don McGregor and Chris Claremont. (9/4)

* *

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (33, December). This issue's "Death And The Seven Wizards" takes us further into the Flamewind epic that began the previous issue. Written by Roy Thomas, drawn by John Buscema and Ernie Chua. (9/11)

THE AVENGERS (118, December). We're almost to the end of Steve Englehart's monster multi-parter between the Avengers and Defenders. This issue features the next to last part entitled "To the Death". Art is by Bob Brown with inks by Mike Esposito and Frank Giacoia. (9/11)



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TOMB OF DRACULA
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
20¢
17
THE TOMB OF DRACULA
A VAMPIRE RIDES THIS TRAIN!
SEE MOMMY? THERE'S THE NICE MAN I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
HE SAID HE WANTED TO MEET YOU!!

TOMB OF DRACULA (15, December). This issue contains four mini-stories concerning the effect that Dracula has had on four different people. It's entitled "Fear is the Name of The Game" and it's brought to you by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (9/11)

MARVEL TALES (48, December). This issue reprints "The Impossible Escape" from Spidey 65 by Stan Lee and art by John Romita and Jim Mooney. (9/11)

ASTONISHING TALES (21, December). Ka-Zar moves over to his own book and in so doing gives up his spot in AT to It! by Tony Isabella and Dick Ayers. AT is now bi-monthly and this issue is backed up by a reprint. (9/11)

FEAR (19, December). Man-Thing moves out of Fear and into his own book leaving the book vacant for Morbius to take over. This issue has Morbius battling the evil Demon Priest. Script by Mike Friedrich. Art by new-comer Paul Gulacy. (9/11)

GHOST RIDER (3, December). Ghost Rider stars in "Wheels On Fire" written by Gary Friedrich and drawn by Jim Mooney and John Tartaglione. (9/11)

HERO FOR HIRE (16, December). Luke Cage faces a new villian called Stiletto, a master with knifes, out to destroy all that is evil... including Luke Cage. This issue ties up all the loose ends that have been left hanging for the last few issues. Script is by Tony Isabella, with art by Billy Graham and Frank McLaughlin. (9/11)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (1, December). This new reprint title features Iron Man and Captain America. The stories reprinted this issue should be from Tales of Suspense 65. The IM story from that issue is "When Titans Clash" by Stan Lee, Don Heck and Mike Esposito. Cap appears in "The Red Skull Strikes" by Lee, Jack Kirby and Chic Stone. (9/11)

* *

FANTASTIC FOUR (141, December). The Annihilus series concludes with this issue's "The End of the Fantastic Four". Script is by Gerry Conway. This issue marks the last one drawn by John Buscema (Rich Buckler takes over next month). Joe Sinnott inks. (9/18)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (16, December). Spidey teams up with Captain Marvel in "Beware the Basilisk My Son". Script by Len Wein. Art by Gil Kane and Jim Mooney. (9/18)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (12, December). The Hangman two-parter is concluded this month. Script by Mike Friedrich, with art by Gil Kane and Don Perlin. (9/18)

THE DEFENDERS (11, December). This issue's "The Quest for the Black Knight's Soul" concludes the Avenger-Defender multi-parter with the both groups going back into time to save the Black Knight. Script by Steve Englehart, art by Sal Buscema. (9/18)

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY (8, December). (9/18)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (13, December). Revealed at last! The origin of The Son of Satan by Gary Friedrich. Art by Herb Trimpe. (9/18)

STRANGE TALES (171, December). Brother Voodoo faces Baron Samedi and his "March of the Dead". Script by Len Wein, art by Gene Colan and Frank Giacoia. (9/18)

OUR LOVE STORY (26, December). (9/18)

UNCANNY TALES (1, December). (9/18)

DRACULA (4, December). An actor who has played Dracula on stage begins to believe that he is the Prince of Darkness in "Fear Stalker" by Mike Friedrich, Mike Ploog, and Ernie Chua. "The Countess of Blood" by Gardner Fox and Dick Ayers. Dracula returns to his homeland in a Gerry Conway/ Alcazar story, "Look Homeward, Vampire". This issue also includes two reprints, and articles by Gerry Boudreau, Dwight Decker, and Chris Claremont, as well as a biography of Marv Wolfman. (9/18) (75¢)

Coming Comics 2

INCREDIBLE HULK (171, January). The Rhino and the Abomination team up to do battle against the Hulk in this tale scripted by Steve Englehart and Gerry Conway. Art by Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (9/25)

KID COLT OUTLAW (178, January). (9/25)

MARVEL SUPER HEROES (41, January). The Sub-Mariner in "The Wrath of Warlord Krang" by Stan Lee, Jerry Grandenetti, and Bill Everett and the Hulk in "The Birth of the Hulk Killer" by Stan Lee, John Buscema and Mike Esposito from Tales to Astonish #86. (9/25)

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (29, January). (9/25)

MARVEL SPECTACULAR (5, January). This issue should contain Thor in "The People-Breeders" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from Thor #134, as well as an installment of Tales of Asgard. (9/25)

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (20, January). (9/25)

WORLDS UNKNOWN (5, January). This issue features "Black Destroyer", a story written by A.E. Van Vogt and adapted for WU by Roy Thomas, with art by Dan Adkins and Jim Mooney. (9/25)

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (26, January). (9/25)

* *

KA-ZAR (1, January). Ka-Zar packs up Zabu and moves from Astonishing Tales into his own book. In this first issue, Ka-Zar and Zabu return to the Savage Land after their stay in Fun City and imediately become the victims of a human sacrifice ritual. Script is by Mike Friedrich, breakdowns by Paul Reinman, and finished art by. Mike Royer. (9/25)

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (128, January). The Vulture murder mystery that began last month is concluded this issue. See if you can spot the clues given! Script by Gerry Conway, art by Russ Andru and Frank Giacoia. (10/2)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (169, January). No details on this issue. Sorry. I do know that the script is by Steve Englehart and Mike Friedrich, art by Sal Buscema. (10/2)

THOR (219, January). Part two of the Black Star trilogy begun last issue by Gerry Conway, John Buscema and Mike Esposito. (10/2)

TOMB OF DRACULA (16, January). Things return from the dead in "The Skeleton Creature Mystery" to face Dracula in this tale scripted by Marv Wolfman and drawn by Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (10/2)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (16, January). From #22 of the Avengers, "The Road Back" by Stan Lee, Don Heck, and Wally Wood. (10/2)

MARVELS GREATEST COMICS (47, January). The FF face "The Sentry Sinister" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott from FF #64. (10/2)

CRYPT OF SHADOWS (8, January). (10/2)

SUB-MARINER (68, January). Namor battles against one called Force. Neptune makes an appearance this time around to confront his avenging son. Script by Steve Gerber, art by Don Heck and Don Perlin. (10/2)

CHAMBER OF CHILLS (8, January). (10/2,

BEWARE (6, January). (10/2)

* *

THE AVENGERS (119, January). Steve Englehart contributes this year's addition to the annals of the annual Rutland Hallowe'en parade. The Avengers travel to Rutland to face the Collector. Art is by Bob Brown and Don Heck. (10/9)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (34, January). Roy Thomas continues his Flamewind tale in this issues "Fury in the Flame Tower". Pencils by John Buscema, inks by Ernie Chua. (10/9)

MAN-THING (1, January). The Man-Thing starts off his run in his own book with a story containing literally everything... from demons to peanut butter, to zeppelins--- even a cigar smoking duck! (I kid you not!) Steve Gerber wrote it, and Val Mayerik and Sal Trapani drew it. (10/9)

MARVEL TALES (49, January). This issue contains "The Impossible Escape" from Spidey #65. Story by Stan Lee, art by John Romita and Jim Mooney. (10/9)

AMAZING ADVENTURE (22, January). Killraven continues his struggle against the evil Martain dominators of Earth in "Washington Nightmare" by Don McGregor, Herb Trimp and Frank Chaiv-amonte. This issue intoduces new characters into the strip, including a futuristic cavalier named Sabre, an ultimate women's libber called Mint Julep, and a nasty person known as Abraxas. (10/9)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (1, January). This new team-up book starts off with the Thing and Man-Thing battling against the "Son of the Molecule Man" by Steve Gerber, Gil Kane and Joe Sinnott. (10/9)

CRAZY (2, January). This 52 page issue starts off with a cover by the great Kelly Freas, and goes on from there. McCloud is spoofed by Marv Wolfman and Neal Adams in"McClown", Art Buchwald, one of America's top humorists, contributes three pages of crazyness, "We'd Be Crazy" is contributed by Roy Thomas, John Tartaglione and Vic Martin, Celebrity Gravestones by Marv Wolfman and Vic Martin, a James Bond spoof by Stu Schwartzberg, Roy Thomas, John Buscema and the Crusty Bunkers, more on the Moose by Myron Moose's own Bob Foster, and much more. (10/9) (40¢)

* *

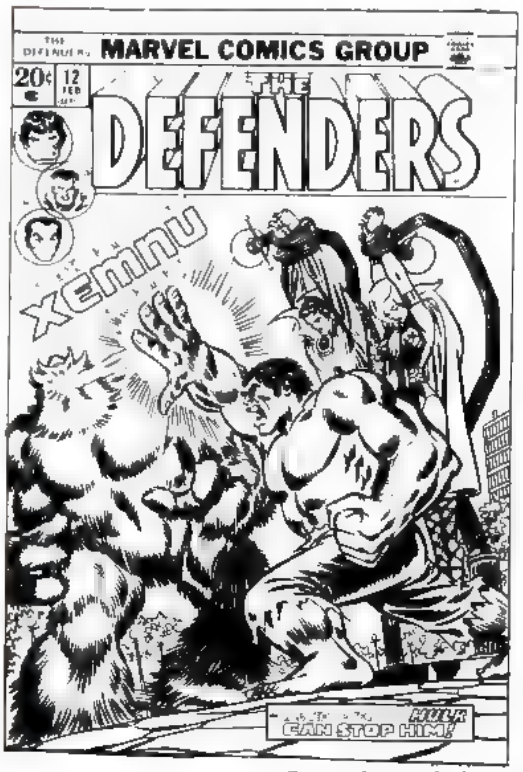
WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (13, January). Mike Ploog returns this issue to take up the job of penciling Werewolf. In this first of two parts, a character named Topaz is introduced. "His Name is Taboo" was scripted by Marv Wolfman, penciled by Ploog, and inked by Frank Chairamonte. This issue is very Will Eisner-ish and highly recommended. (10/16)

FANTASTIC FOUR (142, January). This issue, "A Death of a Demon" by Gerry Conway. Rich Buckler takes over as penciler this issue. Inks by Joe Sinnott. (10/16)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (17, January). The Thing and Mr. Fantastic join forces in "Chaos at the Earth's Core" by Len Wein and Gil Kane. (10/16)

RAWHIDE KID (118, January). (10/16)

KULL THE DESTROYER (12, January). Kull, now dethroned, has been tossed into chains. Can he escape? Read the answer this issue by Roy Thomas and Mike Ploog. (10/16)



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JUNGLE ACTION (8, January). The secrets of the rites of the Panther's power are revealed in "Malice By Crimson Moonlight". Also, Monica comes face to face with the populace of Wakanda. Script by Don McGregor, art by Rich Buckler and Klaus Janson. (10/16)

MARVEL PREMIERE (13, January). Dr. Strange gets together with a band of gypsies in Transylvania. Steve Englehart, John Brunner and the Crusty Bunkers. (10/16)

FRANKENSTEIN (8, January). The Monster continues his meanderings throughout the Translyvania countryside where he battles Dracula! Script by Gary Friedrich, art by Jonn Buscema and Verporten. (10/16)

SGT. FURY (117, January). The story centers around Fury and Gabe in "Taps for a Drummer". Marv Wolfman, Don McGregor, Tony Isabella, and Gerry Conway scripters. Dick Ayers and Vince Colletta artists. (10/16)

CAPTAIN MARVEL (30, January). Mar-Vell continues his struggle against Titan and the Controller in "To Be Free From Control". Script and pencils by Jim Starlin, inks by Al Milgrom. (10/16)

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (27, January). "In The Crypts of Yamath" continues the adventures of Thongor by Gardner Fox, Val Mayerick and Vincente Alcazar. (10/16)

SAVAGE TALES (3, January). The Conan saga begun in the last issue of ST, "The Lurker In The Catacombs", is concluded this issue in 40 pages by Roy Thomas and Barry Smith. A new text series called Arquel written by Ray Capella, with illustrations by Al Williamson. Articles this issue are on The Age of Conan, and Red Sonja. Talon is featured in a preview by Jim Steranko. (10/23)

You may have noticed that this month's Coming Comics listing only goes to the middle of the month. This is due to Marvel's policy of dividing their production schedule into four weeks.

ET AL

Phil Seuling is having a Comicon up in Buffalo, New York over the Thanksgiving weekend. The price is $2 per day, or $5 for the whole four days. For further information, contact Phil Seuling, 621 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11223.

Tabloid Press, a new outfit in Oakville, Ontario, has come out with the first of its new 11" x 16½" books. This six page book, printed on heavy stock paper is a new Spirit story by Will Eisner. The book is in full color and the size it's presented in affords a good oppurtunity to really see Eisner's art. The price is $3.00 and it's available from Tabloid Press, Post Office Box 1064, Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Leonard Nimoy, best known from Star Trek as Mr. Spock, will be appearing in a play on Broadway this year.

WARREN NEWS

VAMPIRELLA #29. This issue's Vampi episode is "Undead of the Deep" (Lowe, Gonzalez), plus "The Evil Eye" (Wess, Torrent), "Stairway To Heaven" (Fernandez), "Vampires Are Coming" (Moench, Munes), "Last Lunch For Rats" (Moench,Auraleon), and the color section, "A History of Vampires" (Dube). (10/4)

CREEPY #58. In this issue: "Change Into Something Comfortable" (Moench, Corben), "Excuse For Violence" (McGregor, Abellan), "Scream Well Before Dying" (Moench, Bea), "Soul In Shadow" (Fox, Crandell), "Walking Nightmare" (McGregor, Munes), and, this issue's eight page color section, "The Old School" (Skeates, Alcazar, Dube). (10/11)

EERIE #53. This issue's Mummy story has the Mummy pitted against Mr. Hyde in a story by Steve Skeates and Brocal. The Werewolf (Milgrom, Salvador), the Hunter (Margopoulos, Neary), "The Fathom Hunt" (Sutton), and "Shreck" (Moench, Alcazar and Adams) round out the issue. Cover by San Julian. (10/25)

ET AL

National Lampoon will put out their Encyclopedia of Humor in September. This volume will be about the size of their Best of Nat-Lamp, but it will probably sell for a bit more. This volume will contain reprints, as well as new material by Neal Adams, Berni Wrightson, Alan Kupperberg, and others.

True Fan Adventure Theatre, under the editorial guidance of its first editor Dwight Decker, is soon to see print once more. This will be a completely different True F.A.T. than you have probably ever seen. It will be printed by that lost method of reproduction known as ditto. The mag will have a very limited print-run of 200 and it should be out sometime near the end of the year. Watch for ads!

The ninth issue of Witzend is now at the printers! Copies should be ready for the mail when you read this. This issue is dedicated to the late, great W.C. Fields and it promises to tell you everything that you've always wanted to know about the great comedian. Witzend #9 will go for $3.00 before December 31, 1975 and $5.00 thereafter. It's available from Wonderful Publishing Company, Box 177, Canal Street Station, Brooklyn, New York 11222. This is a limited edition of 5,000 copies, so order may pronto.

The folks from The Menomonee Falls Gazette have announced that starting with #9 they will add to the line-up Buck Rogers by Murphy Anderson from 1958, Red Barry from 1934, Batman from 1943, Jungle Jim from 1935, The Spirit from 1941, Red Ryder, Peter Scratch by Lou Fine from 1965, Dr. Guy Bennett by Frank Thorne, Big Bransom, The Seekers and Paul Temple, Scarth A.D. 2195, and the current Friday Foster, Big Ben Bolt, Capt. Easy, Dick Tracy, Kerry Drake, Juliet Jones, Dr. Kildare, Gunner, and the Sundays of On Stage, Johnny Hazard, Steve Canyon, Ambler, and Friday Foster.

King Features announces the publication of Hal Foster's Prince Valiant and Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon in four 160 page editions. The books will be cloth bound, full color and they will contain reprints of the original Sunday pages. There will be two volumes of each of the above characters set for release around Christmas time this year. Each book will be priced at approximately $15 or less. Upon publication the books can be purchased directly from King Features, Merchandising and Special Projects Dept., 235 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017.

Friends of Duffy Vohland take note! Duffy has changed his address once more, this time to: 7218 Bergen Court, Brooklyn, New York 11234. Do you think you can manage to stay put this time, Duffy?

TRUE CONFESSIONS

GEE WHIZ, KIDS -- IT'S TIME FOR A PEAK BEHIND THE SCENES AT TCR PUBLICATIONS!

As many of you know, the fantastic line of TCR Publications are brought out from a small dungeon apartment in the wilds of Brooklyn--somewhere between the fabled lands of Flatbush and Canarsie. In memory of our 100th (and last) issue here's a quick biography of our stupendous staff and perennial hangers-on:

From left to right in the completed diorama (that's right, kids, on the next few pages you can find your own model diorama of the office on a typical day, as reconstructed by staff artist/proofreader/klutz Carl Gafford):

CARL GAFFORD, who is being forced to eat an issue of The Comic Reader because he failed to catch over three spelling and/or grammatical errors! Normally he could get away with that, since he's the only member of the staff who can read or write, but NPP proofreader Gerda Gattel (a very nice lady who is busily teaching Carl the craft) happened to read through this issue. Besides his proofreading chores, Carl contributes the Fourth World Nuts comic strip, and an occasional title logo.

Ah yes, remember I mentioned our hangers-on? Well, this is little ELI FRIEDMAN, who hung around once too often. Other notables include ED MANLEY (also an artistical contributer), and BOB McWALTERS (our convention reporter), both of whom were not included in the diorama cause they weren't around to pose!

Speaking of around, here's lively LIAM O'CONNOR, our nominee to be the new New York City Police Force (all by himself!). Very much the immoveable Obelix of the outfit (Asterix fans take note!) he's also our fanzine reviewer. Oh yes, that gun <u>is</u> pointing at you. We've all been threatened by Liam on occasion...join the club!

The quavering mass of jello holding up the shield is our own peerless Polock, STEVE GILARY, resident person in charge of our dealer's tables and the like. Steve's ambition is to be a doctor one day, and he practices by throwing his xacto knife around the room and trying to take out people's eyes. Cute guy. Lest anyone take exception to our calling this production man a Polock earlier in this paragraph, let me take pains to point out that TCR is an equal-opportunity ethnic insulter. Our staff also includes 2 Jews (1 Cheap, 1 Garden variety), 1 Wop, 1 WASP, and a Methodist Nazi.

Slightly higher on your screen is the publishing person--PAUL LEVITZ. No more need be said, the picture is worth 1000 words.

1000 words is also the total vocabulary of our next victim--except none of them are printable. Etcetera editor PAUL KUPPERBERG is best known for his arrest on charges of molesting sixteen young females--of sixteen different species (none of them homo sapiens).

The guy throwing the darts at the Mr. A dartboard is DWIGHT DECKER, who made his first contribution to TCR this issue, but he was the only guy Carl knew how to draw so we included him anyway.

The last member of our staff is also the smartest--young CHEE-CHEE has amassed a vast publishing empire before her seventh birthday, and runs it with an iron paw! As the only member of the staff who knows how to type (or what a comic book is) her superiority is obvious!

And there you have it gang, a quick look at what really goes on during a typical evening at our offices. Absent without leave from the picture: TONY ISABELLA (who didn't want to be included), DUFFY VOHLAND, and a cast of thousands.

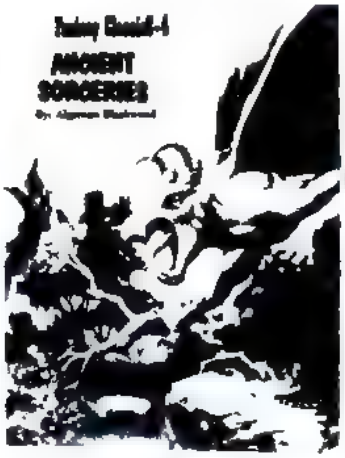
As for the graffiti strewn around the borders of the diorama--it's all real. Most of the comments are direct quotes from dialogues in the office, others are famous one-liners, and the rest you'll have to figure out for yourself. We could get arrested for explaining them in print.

Also worthy of mention are the only two folks in our menagerie who ever do any work--the publisher's parents, who serve as the company bookkeeper (no, not bookie) and mailroom clerk, not to mention subscription dept. Between them and Chee-Chee, the rest of us are totally unnecessary.

And as the sun sets slowly in the east, and we bid farewell to our gallent crew, remember--

POOKIE-POOKIE!

SPECTACULAR



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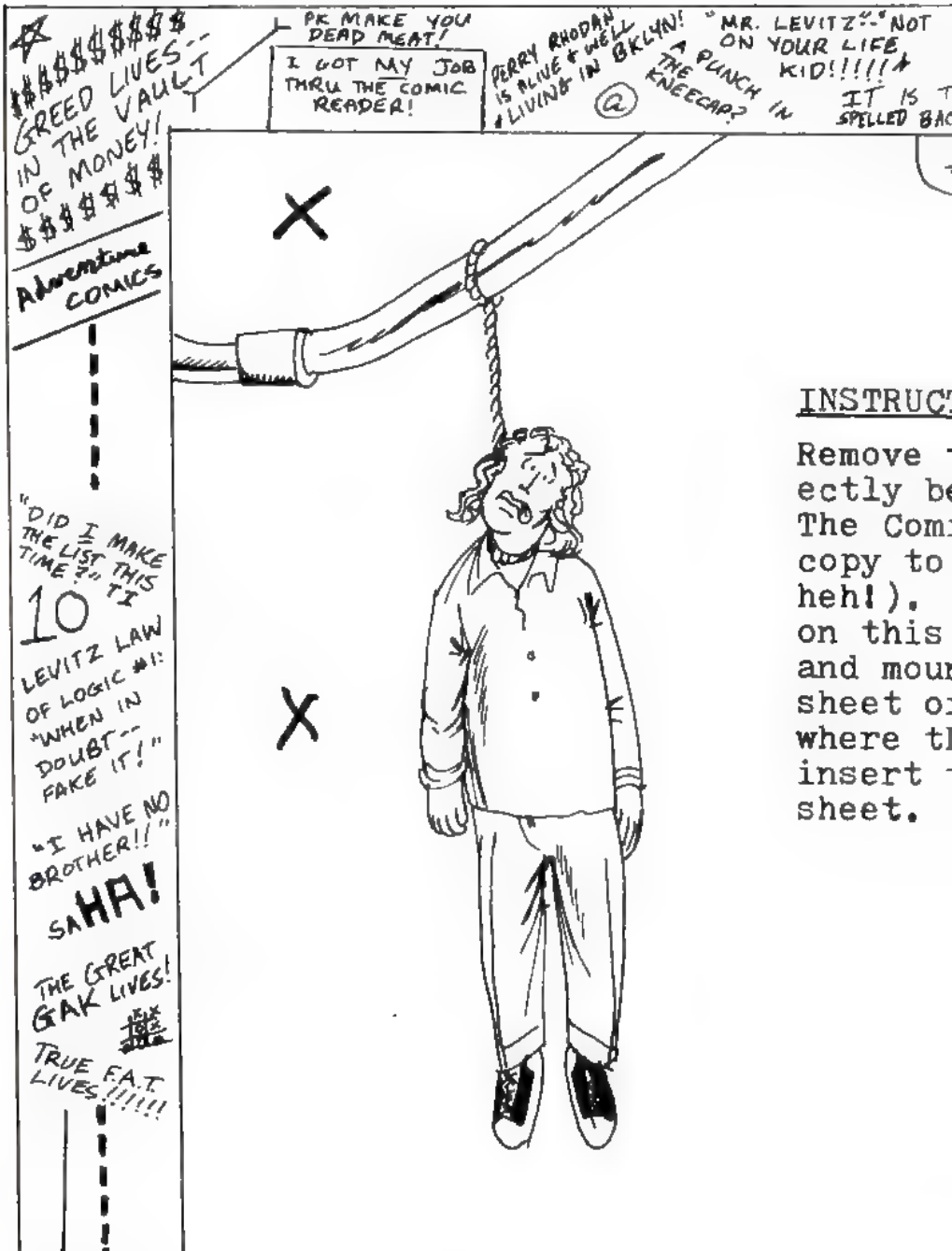
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OF MONEY!
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Adventure COMICS
"DID I MAKE THE LIST THIS TIME?" TI
10
LEVITZ LAW OF LOGIC #1: "WHEN IN DOUBT-- FAKE IT!"
"I HAVE NO BROTHER!!"
SAHA!
THE GREAT GAK LIVES!
TRUE F.A.T. LIVES!!!!!!
EDITED BY:
~~DR. DECKER~~
~~MARTY PASKO~~
~~MIKE RAUB~~
~~DR. DECKER~~
~~TONY ISABELLA~~
~~PAUL LEVITZ~~
~~STEVE GILBERT~~
TONY ISABELLA
~~CHUCK SPARKS~~
DWIGHT DECKER
PR MAKE YOU DEAD MEAT!
I GOT MY JOB THRU THE COMIC READER!
PERRY RHODAN IS ALIVE & WELL & LIVING IN BKLYN!
@
A PUNCH IN THE KNEECAP?
"MR. LEVITZ"--NOT ON YOUR LIFE, KID!!!!!
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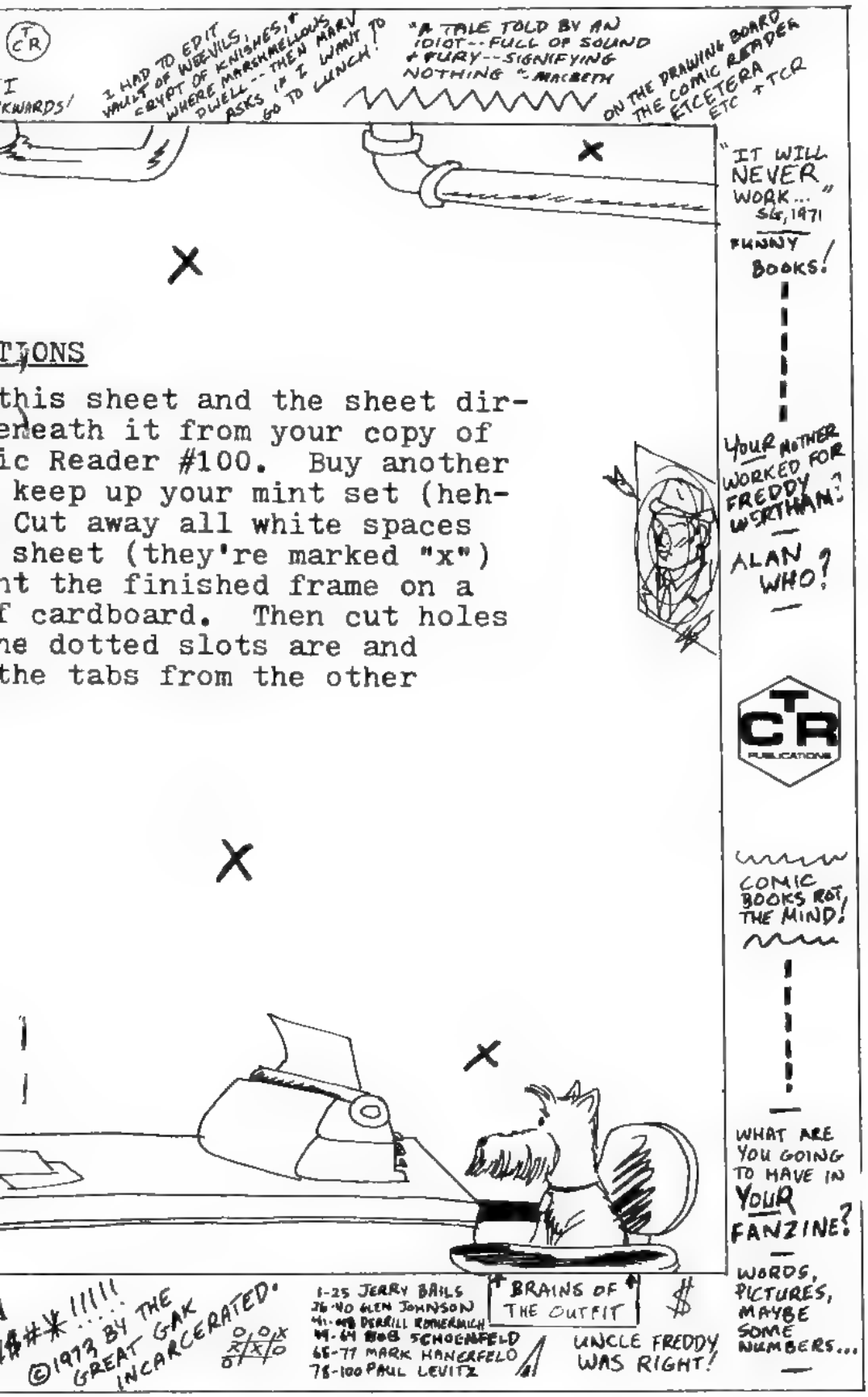
WHO WILL THE CURSE STRIKE NEXT?
YOU CAN PICK YOUR FRIENDS-- YOU CAN PICK YOUR NOSE-- BUT YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FRIEND'S NOSE.
WE'RE THE BEST!
@


I HAD TO EDIT VAULT OF WEEVILS, CRYPT OF KNIGHTS, & WHERE MARSHMELLOWS DWELL -- THEN MARV ASKS IF I WANT TO GO TO LUNCH!
"A TALE TOLD BY AN IDIOT -- FULL OF SOUND & FURY -- SIGNIFYING NOTHING" -MACBETH
ON THE DRAWING BOARD THE COMIC READER ETCETERA ETC + TCR
"IT WILL NEVER WORK..." SG, 1971
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ALAN WHO?
TCR PUBLICATIONS
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26-40 GLEN JOHNSON
41-48 DERRILL ROTHERMICH
49-64 BOB SCHOENFELD
65-77 MARK HANGERFELD
78-100 PAUL LEVITZ
BRAINS OF THE OUTFIT
$
UNCLE FREDDY WAS RIGHT!
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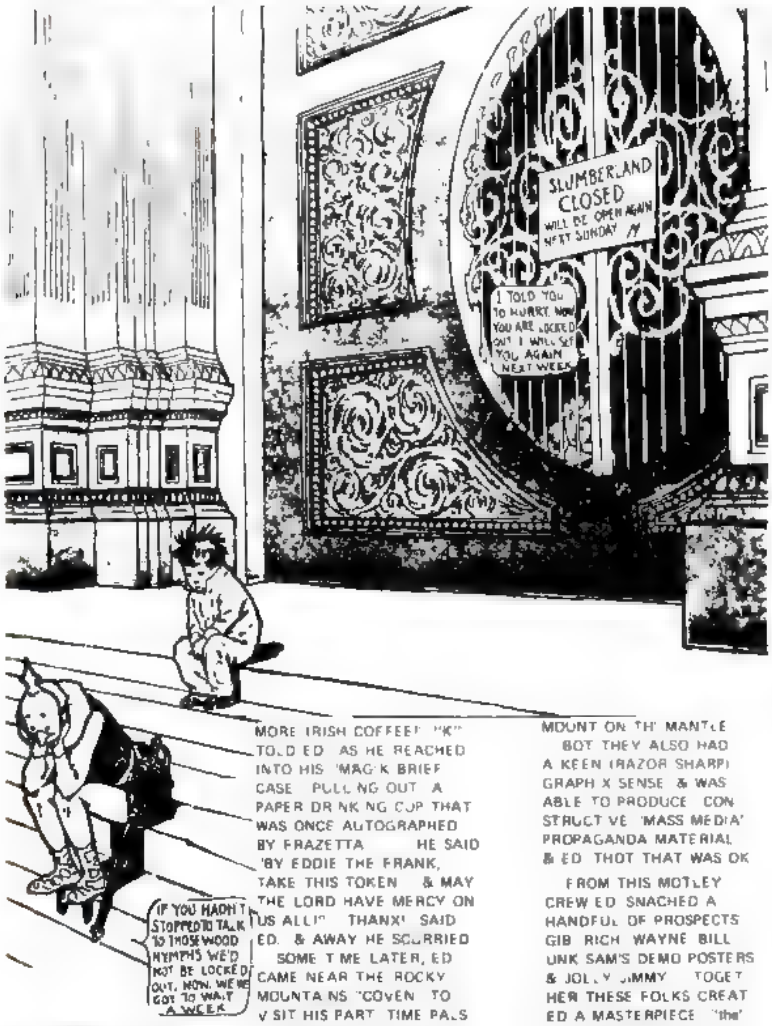
EDITORS SPACE


SLUMBERLAND CLOSED
WILL BE OPEN AGAIN NEXT SUNDAY
I TOLD YOU TO HURRY, NOW YOU ARE LOCKED OUT. I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT WEEK
IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED TO TALK TO THOSE WOOD NYMPHS WE'D NOT BE LOCKED OUT. NOW, WE'VE GOT TO WAIT A WEEK

GREETINGS FOLKS! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO IN-FORM YOU AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING ONE DAY, ALL US GUYS AT MIDDLE EARTH GOT BORED "MY ASS HURTS!" SAID FROTO; & HE SHOULD KNOW HIM BEING THE THIRD OLDEST "BE - HOP - DE D DOLY GOP RE BA" WAS BOBO'S ONLY REPLY ED WAS THE SOLEMN ONE OF THE BUNCH & HE WERE WORR IED SO HE SEARCHED THE MIRK WOOD FORREST UNT L HE CAME UPON KRUSTY "K MOPING ABOUT THE SHADOWS OF THE TREES ED REMEM-BERED HOW KRUSTY ONCE BLEW H S JIVE LIK A KOOL BREEZE TRU TH ROCKIES & THOT TO FILL K WIT H S WOE HAVE SOME MORE IRISH COFFEE! "K" TOLD ED AS HE REACHED INTO HIS 'MAG K BRIEF CASE PULL NG OUT A PAPER DR NK NG CUP THAT WAS ONCE AUTOGRAPHED BY FRAZETTA HE SAID 'BY EDDIE THE FRANK, TAKE THIS TOKEN & MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL!" THANX! SAID ED. & AWAY HE SCURRIED SOME T ME LATER, ED CAME NEAR THE ROCKY MOUNTA NS "COVEN TO V SIT HIS PART TIME PALS OF GOBL N GRAPHIX THE "COVEN WAS THE MAIN PLACE FOR OR S (AS THEY WAS CALLED) GOBL NS (OF COURSE!) & OTHER WEARY CREATURES TO HANG OUT & DRINK "OOK AID" ALL & PART O' TH N TE ET TU. A LONG TIME BEFORE ED THOT THE ONLY THING THESE SCURVEY VARMIN COULD BE USED FER WAS FOR STUFFING THEM, TO MOUNT ON TH' MANTLE BOT THEY ALSO HAD A KEEN (RAZOR SHARP) GRAPH X SENSE & WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE CON STRUCT VE 'MASS MEDIA' PROPAGANDA MATERIAL & ED THOT THAT WAS OK

FROM THIS MOTLEY CREW ED SNACHED A HANDFUL OF PROSPECTS GIB RICH WAYNE BILL UNK SAM'S DEMO POSTERS & JOLLY JIMMY TOGET HER THESE FOLKS CREAT ED A MASTERPIECE 'the' MIRK WOOD T MES (AS IT WERE CALLED) ED'S BIZNESS MANAGER. "DENN S M WAKABAYASHI" BEING THE MODEST K ND THAT HE IS, SAID "WE MUST SHARE THIS BEAUTY WIT OTHERS ON THE OUT SIDE WORLD. LET US GIB IT AWAY FER FREE!" WELL AT FIRST ED WAS'NT SURE MAINLY BECAUSE HE THOT THERE WAS'N ENOUGH TROUBLE N DE WORLD ALREADY AND HE WERE MORE KEEN ON A MORE ORIG NAL CONCEPT BUT HE LATER NODDED HIS FUZZY LITTLE FACE N A SIGN OF APPROVAL & THEY WER OFF SECOND LY ED WENT TO THE IRON HILLS SCOURING THE FANDOM HUMPS FER A SIGN OF MASS MED A S PPORT HE HAS BEEN OST NOW FER TWO HALF MOON MONTHS NOW WHICH IS THE MAIN REA SON I AM RELATING THIS TRAG C TALE OF WOE TO YOSE IF YOU TH NK YOU'VE SEEN EM ALL DON T K D YERSELF! YEW A NT SEEN NOTH N YET WHAT AM BABBL N ABOUT? YEW SAY? the M RK WOOD T MES IS THE ONLY FANZINE THAT COME OUT MONTHLY & T DON T COST A RED CENT ! AMER KAN OR OTHERW SE

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ETCETERA

AUGUST NO 4

60¢

...'S ARMY AT WAR (...), December . Sgt. Rock and Easy Co. are imprisoned in an international P.O.W. stalag and forced to play football against a group of the Low Planet prisoners. "The Cage" and the Manager and Rock Heath. Plus a Bob Kanigher's Tales of war--"Winter Soldier" with art by Ric Estrada. Cover by Joe Kubert. (9/4)

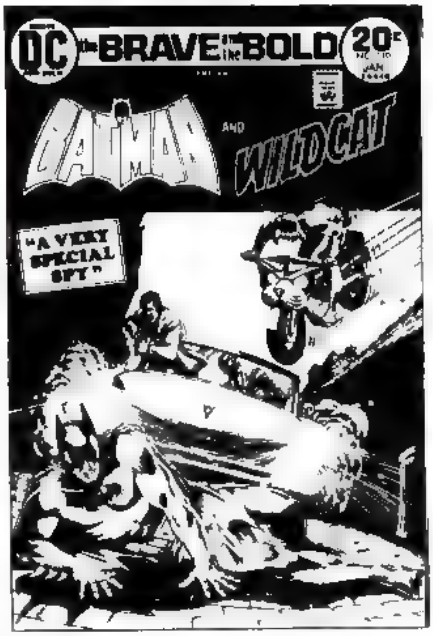
GHOSTS (21, December). In this issue: "The Ghost And General Ike," "Within You Dwells A Demon" (art by Alfredo Alcala), "The Ghost In The Devil's Chair" and "Shadow of Death." (9/4)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (110, Dec-Jan). Batman joins forces with Wildcat to investigate a case of industrial espionage as they meet "A Very Special Spy" in a full-lengther by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. Cover by Nick Cardy. (9/4)

MISTER MIRACLE (17, Dec-Jan). Scott, Big Barda, and the troupe go for a vacation to a quiet resort by the name of "Murder Lodge"--where they're mistaken for guests with permenant reservations! Script and pencils by Jack Kirby, inks by Mike Royer. Cover by Kirby. (9/6)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (220, December). In this issue: "They Hunt Butterflies, Don't They?" by Michael Fleisher, Russell Carley and Alfredo Alcala and "The Hunter" by John Albano and Alex Nino. Cover by Luis Dominguez. (9/6)

THE PHANTOM STRANGER (28, Dec-Jan). The Stranger battles "The Counterfeit Madman" in a story by Arnold Drake and Gerry Talaoc, and the Spawn of Frankenstein faces danger on "The Night Of The Snake God" (Steve Skeates & Bernard Baily). Cover by Nick Cardy. (9/6)



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WONDER WOMAN (209, Dec-Jan). More stories à la the Golden Age--"The Attack Of The Sky Demons" and "Planet Of Plunder" by Bob Kanigher and Ric Estrada. (9/6)

* *

G.I. COMBAT (167, December). The Haunted Tank crew winds up its current two-part adventure as Gus Gray races for "The Finish Line" in a story by Archie Goodwin and Sam Glanzman. "Just Another Mission" introduces Steve Mitchell to the writing side of the comics, and Ken Barr does the art. (9/11)

KAMANDI (12, December). Drop by the most unusual department store on Earth After Disaster--Sacker's--for the story of "The Devil And Mr. Sacker" by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. Cover by Kirby. (9/11)

SUPERMAN (270, December). "The Viking From Valhalla" visits Superman in Metropolis to pay him a return visit. Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. The visiting trend continues as Clark Kent returns to Smallville to visit Pete Ross and finds out that "I Can't Go Home Again" by Elliot Maggin and Murphy Anderson. (9/11)

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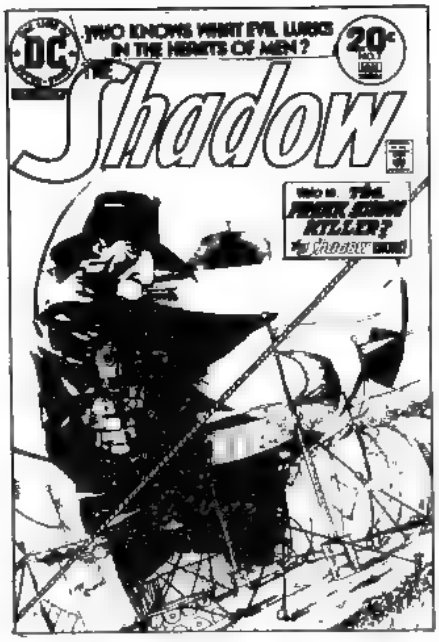

SHAZAM SUPER-SPECTACULAR (8, December). All reprint material. Captain Marvel in "The Twice Told Tale" which includes an origin recap and the story of how Billy got his job; Captain Marvel "Introduces Mary Marvel" from Capt. Marvel #18, the first Marvel Family story pits the Marvels against Black Adam; Captain Marvel Jr. in "The Vest Pocket Levitator" (by Mac Raboy); Mary Marvel in "The Dognappers" (with Uncle Marvel); Capt. Marvel vs. Sivana in "The Adventure In Time" (with the Lt.s Marvel); and the first two Talky Tawny adventures--"The Talking Tiger" and "The Return Of Mr. Tawny." Cover by C.C. Beck. (9/11)

THE UNEXPECTED (153, December). In this issue: "Who's That Sleeping In My House?," "Black Hole Of Wrath," and "Wedding Bells For A Corpse." (9/13)

YOUNG LOVE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (107, Dec-Jan). New material by Joe Simon, plus reprint features. (9/13)

THE WITCHING HOUR (37, December). In this issue: "The Devil's Chessboard" (George Kashdan and Patricio), "No Coffin Can Hold Me" (Kashdan and Frank Redondo), and "My Daughter The Witch" (Kashdan and E.R. Cruz). (9/13)

KORAK (55, Dec-Jan). Korak meets a group of descendants of the Mongol Horde on "Terror Mountain" (Bob Kanigher and Murphy Anderson). Plus "Lost On Venus" by Mike Kaluta. Cover by Joe Kubert. (9/13)

THE SHADOW (2, Dec-Jan). The Shadow and a group of freak-show stars join forces to battle a mysterious stature made of a miracle metal. "The Freak Show Murders" by Denny O'Neil and Mike Kaluta. (9/13)

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PREZ (3, Dec-Jan). An assassination attempt pits the Minute-Men against Prez when the teen president battles "The Invasion Of America" in a full-length story by Joe Simon, Win Mortimer and Craig Flessel. (9/18)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (146, Dec-Jan). One of the members of The Losers dies and takes "The Forever Walk" in a Bob Kanigher & John Severin story. Plus "Burma Sky" by Archie Goodwin and Alex Toth. (9/18)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (114, December). In this issue: "Night Game" (Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley, Frank Bolle) and "The Demon And The Rock Star." (9/18)

WEIRD WAR TALES (20, December). In this issue: "Operation:Voodoo" (Arnold Drake and Alfredo Alcala), "Death Watch" and "Death Is A Green Man" (Jack Oleck, Alfredo Alcala). Cover by Luis Dominguez. (9/18)

THE DEMON (15, December). The doppelganger Demon and the Witchboy battle the real Jason Blood in "The One Who Vanished" by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. Cover by Kirby. (9/20)

JIMMY OLSEN (162, Dec-Jan). "One By One My Brothers Die" and "The Savage Who Stalked Mister Action" are by Leo Dorfman and Kurt Schaffenberger. (9/20)

FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION (14, Dec-Jan). In this issue: "The Doomsday Trapeze" (Michael Fleisher, Russell Carley, Dan Green) and "The Honor Of France" (written by Don Kaar). (9/20)

CHAMPION SPORTS (2, Dec-Jan). In this issue: "The Enchanted Bat," "Street Fighter," and "The Animal." (9/20)

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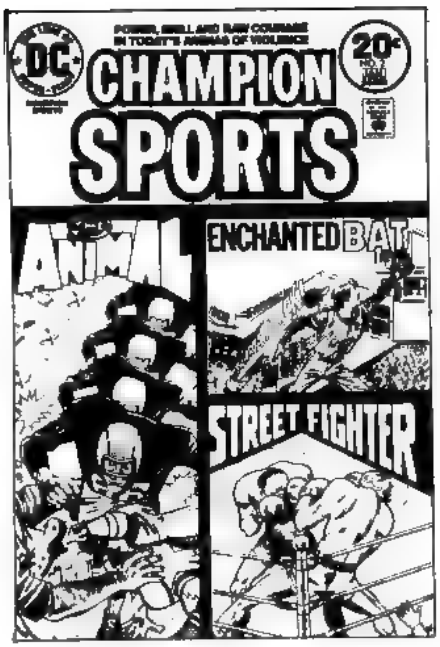
BLACK MAGIC (2, Dec-Jan). Reprints from the Simon & Kirby edited title. This issue: "Fool's Paradise," "The Cat People," "Birth After Death," and "Those Who Are About To Die." (9/25)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (176, December). The German counterpart of The Unknown Soldier is out to trap our hero and switch places with him. "Target:The Unknown Soldier" is by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling, and is backed up by a Warrior page by Sam Glanzman and "Charge" by Archie Goodwin and Frank Thorne. (9/25)

WEIRD MYSTERY TALES (9, Dec-Jan). In this issue: "Vampire's Gold" (Jack Oleck, Jess Jodloman), "Checkmate" (John Jacobson, Robert Kanigher and Nestor Redondo), and "Evil Power" (Jack Oleck, Alex Nino). Cover by Luis Dominguez. (9/25)



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SUPERGIRL (9, Dec-Jan). The Girl of Steel saves Nubia's life and becomes "Supergirl, Superamazon" in a full-lengther by Cary Bates, Art Saaf, and Vince Colletta. (9/27)

DETECTIVE COMICS SUPER-SPECTACULAR (438, Dec-Jan). Now 50¢ every issue. New stories are: Batman in "A Monster Stalks Wayne Manor" (by Archie Goodwin and Jim Aparo) and Manhunter in "The Manhunter File" (Archie Goodwin and Walt Simonson). Cover by Neal Adams. Reprints are: Batman in "The Gotham Gang Line-Up" (the beginning of the Outsider series), The Atom in "The World of The Magic Atom" (beginning the serialized version of Zatanna's hunt for her father), Green Lantern in "The House That Fought Green Lantern" and Hawkman in "The Men Who Moved The World" (all the stories star the modern versions of the characters. GL and Atom have Gil Kane art, Hawkman is by Kubert.) (9/27)

ACTION COMICS (430, December). Superman begins "A Bus Ride To Nowhere" when he finds out that a monster is living in his apartment house. Part one of two. Script by

Cary Bates, art by Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. The Atom stars in "Up Pops The Atom" by Elliot Maggin, Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. (9/27)

TARZAN OF THE APES (226, December). A reprint filler issue tells D'Arnot's version of Tarzan's first encounter with civilization. Art by Russ Manning, with re-write and extensions by Carl Gafford. Cover by Joe Kubert. (9/27)

LIMITED COLLECTORS EDITION (C-23, Winter) featuring THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY. The best of Joe Orlando's early HOM issues: "House Of Gargoyles" (Bob Haney, Jack Sparling), "Secret Of The Egyptian Cat" (Bob Kanigher, Berni Wrightson), "Widow's Walk" (Howie Post, Neal Adams, Joe Orlando), "His Name Is Kane" (Mike Friedrich, Gil Kane), "The Devil's Doorway" (Jack Oleck, Alex Toth), "Poster Plague" (Steve Skeates, Sergio Aragones) and "Nightmare" (Jack Oleck, Neal Adams), plus "How To Draw A Haunted House" by Sergio Aragones, a new double page Cain pin-up by Berni Wrightson, HOM Page 13 games, Cain's Game Room pages, Behind The Scenes with the writers and artists, a Nick Cardy cover, and superb coloring effects by Tatjana Wood. This is a $1 book. (9/27)

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COMING COMICS 2

OUR ARMY AT WAR (264, January). Sgt. Rock and Easy Co. in "The Hunt" by Bob Kanigher and Russ Heath. Plus a Battle Album page by Sam Glanzman and a Bob Kanigher's Gallery of War Story--"The Book"--illustrated by Ric Estrada. Cover by Joe Kubert. (10/1)

GHOSTS (22, January). In this issue: "The Haunted Horns Of Death" (art by Vincente Alcazar), "The Last Shrill Laugh of The Phantom" (art by Jess Jodloman) and "Omen From The Beyond" (art by Rubeny). (10/1)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (109, Jan-Feb). Eclipso returns and becomes a triple threat menace when the JLA fights "The Duel Of The Divided Man." Also in this issue, Hawkman leaves the JLA. Script by Len Wein, art by Dick Dillin & Dick Giordano. Cover by Nick Cardy. (10/2)

WEIRD WORLDS (9, Jan-Feb). Ironwolf plays an actor, playing himself, playing Hamlet. Sound complex? There's also vampires, the death of one of our characters, and the Empress' birthday party to add to the confusion. Plot and art by Howie Chaykin, dialog by Denny O'Neil. Plus...beginning the Saga of the House of Ironwolf--the story of the founder by Chaykin (plot), John David Warner, and Vincente Alcazar. Cover by Nick Cardy. (10/4)

YOUNG ROMANCE SUPER-SPECTACULAR (197, Jan-Feb). (10/4)

SWAMP THING (8, Jan-Feb). "The Lurker In Tunnel 13" is a very curious beast, with very remote origins but a very immeadiate goal--to destroy the Swamp Thing. Will he succeed? Only Len Wein & Berni Wrightson know for sure! Cover by Wrightson. (10/4)

SECRET ORIGINS (6, Jan-Feb). The orgin of The Legion Of Super-Heroes (from Superboy #147) and the origin of Blackhawk (from Military #1 by Chuck Cuidera). Cover by Nick Cardy. (10/4)

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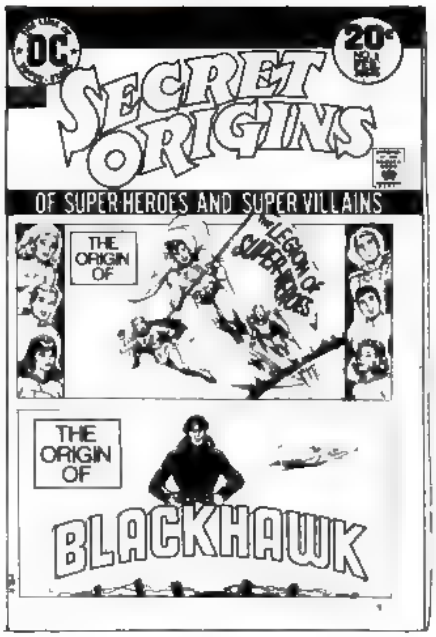

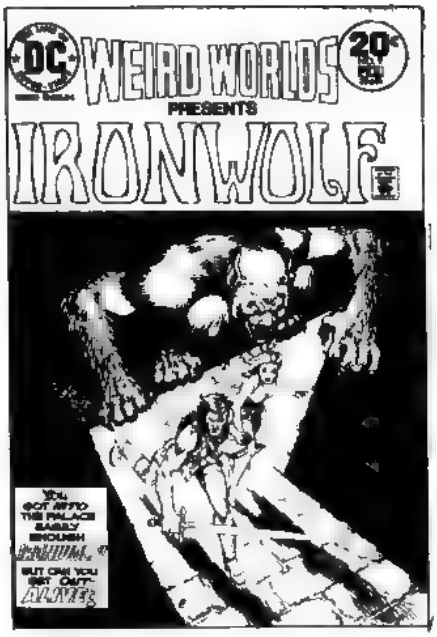

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SUPERMAN (271, January). The Man of Steel takes on "The Man Who Murdered Metropolis" in a story by Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan & Bob Oksner. Sword & sorcery comes to Krypton in "Warriors Of Lightning Valley" by Maggin & Dick Giordano. Cover by Nick Cardy. (10/9)

WEIRD WESTERN TALES (21, Jan-Feb). John Albano bids farewell to the scripting of Jonah Hex with a book-length story entitled "The Gunfighter." Art by Tony DeZuniga. Cover by Luis Dominguez. (10/9)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (221, January). Take a trip to the circus for "Pingo" by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley and Frank Thorne and "He Who Laughs Last" by Len Wein, Berni Wrightson and Mike Kaluta. Cover by Wrightson. (10/9)

KAMANDI (13, January). It's time for a race course adventure, a la Earth After Disaster in "Hell At Hialeah" by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. (10/9)

G.I. COMBAT (168, January). The Haunted Tank travels to Italy where Jeb reaches "The Breaking Point" and quits. Script by Archie Goodwin, art by Sam Glanzman. Battle Album by Glanzman spotlights "The Elephant" and "Panzer" rounds out an all-tank issue. Art by Sid Check, script by Archie Goodwin. Cover by Neal Adams. (10/11)

LOIS LANE (136, Jan-Feb). Team-up time as we meet "Wonder Woman, Mrs. Superman" in a book-lengther by Cary Bates, John Rosenberger, and Vince Colletta. (10/11)

THE UNEXPECTED (154, January). In this issue: "Murder By Madness" and "The Stalking Shadow's Prey." (10/11)

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER KING SIZE (C-24). The fifth DC $1 book brings the series full circle to the same type of material as the first. (10/11)

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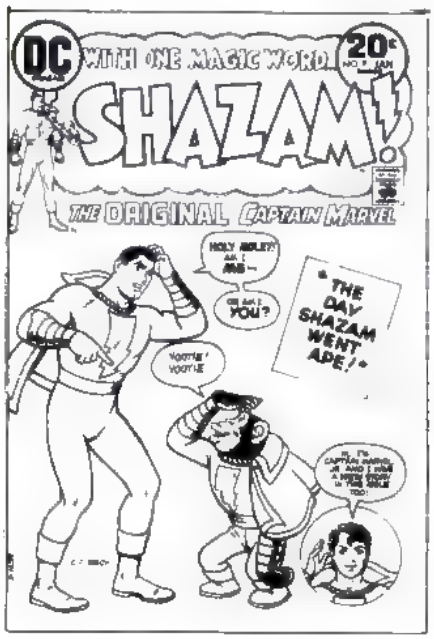
THE WITCHING HOUR SUPER SPECTACULAR (38, January). Cardy cover, plus three stories left over from Dick Giordano's mystery titles ("'Til Death Do Us Join" with Boyette art, "Makers of The Mist" with Anderson art, and "The Ever Constant Drum") and an unpublished 60s mystery "Brush With Death" comprise the new material in this issue. Reprints include: the intros from Witching Hour #2, "Save The Last Dance For Me" (Boyette), "Eternal Hour" (Toth), "The Perfect Surf" (Sparling), "The Man With The Stolen Eyes" (HOM 47), "Phantom Ship" (HOM 68), "Dream Girl" (HOM 69), "Trail Of The Lucky Coin" (PS 4),and Johnny Peril in "The Demon In The Mirror" (Sensation Mystery 109). (10/16)

SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE (16, Jan-Feb). Murray Boltinoff takes over the editorial chores and celebrates with an all-House issue: "Hound You To Your Grave" "No Coffin Can Hold Me" and "The Haunted Housemobile" all revolve around haunted houses. (10/16)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (221, Jan-Feb). Superman, Batman & Sons in "Cry Not For My Forsaken Son" by Bob Haney, Dick Dillin and Murphy Anderson. Cover by Nick Cardy. (10/16)

SHAZAM (9, January). Mr. Mind returns, with the first of his many explanations of his escape from the electric chair. "Worms of The World --Unite!" is by Denny O'Neil and C.C. Beck. Then it's time for "The Day Captain Marvel Went Ape" by Elliot Maggin and C.C. Beck. Captain Marvel Junior kicks off the new rotating back feature department (other stars to be Mary Marvel and The Marvel Family) with "The Mystery Of The Missing Newsstand" by Elliot Maggin and Dave Cockrum. Cover by Beck. (10/18)



FLOP (3, Jan-Feb). In this issue: Intros by Sergio Aragones, "Belly Laugh" by Maxene Fabe & Bill Draut, "A Rejection From Cain" by Mike Pellowski & Alfredo Alcala, "Once Upon A Swine" by Victor Schwartzman, Maxene Fabe & Sergio Aragones, and "This Little Witch Went To Market" by George Kashdan and Alfredo Alcala, plus cartoons and feature pages. Cover by Basil Wolverton. (10/18)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (11[illegible]
In this issue: "[illegible] Brother" (Arnold [illegible], Alex Nino), "[illegible]" (George Kashdan, Alex Nino), and "[illegible]" (George Kashdan, E.R. Cruz). Cover by Ju[illegible]. (10/18)

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BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR (254, Jan-Feb). Batman shifts to a 100-page, bi-monthly format with this issue. New stories are: Batman in "King Of The Gotham Jungle" (featuring the re-appearances of Man-Bat and The Getaway Genius) by Frank Robbins, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano, and Robin in "The Phenomenal Memory of Luke Greene" by Elliot Maggin, Dick Dillin & Murphy Anderson. Reprints revolve around the theme of Batman over the decades: from the [illegible] "The Witch And The Manuscript Of Doom" (World's Best 1), the 50s "The Bullethole Club", the 60s "The Man Who Stole From Batman" and the future "The Second Batman And Robin Team." (10/23)

STRANGE SPORTS STORIES (3, Jan-Feb). Football as played by the Knights of King Arthur's time? It's a "Gridiron Knightmare" by Frank Robbins, Curt Swan & Dick Giordano. Plus "The Man Who Leaped Over The Earth" by Elliot Maggin & Dick Giordano. (10/23)

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THE DEMON (16, January). The Demon mag grinds to a close as he battles his first foe -- "Morgaine Le Fay, The Immortal Enemy" -- once more. By Kirby and Royer. (10/23)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (177, January). The Unknown Soldier invades "The Hornet's Nest" in a story by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling, plus "The Better Part Of Valor" by Don Kaar and Frank Thorne. (10/25)

SUPERBOY & THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES (200, Jan-Feb). Meet "The Legionnaire Bride Of Starfinger" as a special 200th issue book-lengther retires two members of The Legion to wedded bliss. Script by Cary Bates, art by Dave Cockrum. (10/25)

WEIRD WAR TALES (21, January). In this issue: "One Hour To Kill" (script by Jack Oleck, art by Frank Robbins), and "When Death Took A Hand" (Sheldon Mayer, Bernard Baily). Cover by Luis Dominguez. (10/25)

THE FLASH (225, Jan-Feb). Book-length team-up time again--it's "Green Lantern, Master Criminal Of The 25th Century" as the Reverse-Flash returns in a story by Cary Bates, Irv Novick, and Dick Giordano. (10/25)

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ADVENTURE COMICS (431, Jan-Feb). The Spectre returns in a new series of Adventures by Mike Fleisher, Russell Carley and Jim Aparo, beginning with "The Wrath Of The Spectre." Plus a surprising Shelly Mayer-Alex Toth story which asks "Is A Sneri Human?" Cover by Aparo. (10/30)

TARZAN (227, January). "The Ice Queen" by Joe Kubert is another all new adventure of the ape man. (10/30)

ACTION COMICS (431, January). The Man of Steel went on a monster-hunt, but as it turned it was "The Monster Who Unmasked Superman" in a story by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. Green Arrow stars in "The Case of The Runaway Shoebox" along with the Black Canary. Script by Elliot Maggin, art by Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. (10/30)

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UNDERGROUND comix

BILL LOUDIN

Gilbert Shelton, creator of Wonder Wart-Hog and the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, has begun work on drawing, editing, and packaging a weekly comix page to be distributed to all underground (as well as other interested) newspapers which purchase the service. It will be a full tabloid size, presumably, and it will feature the work of Shelton as well as other comix artists.

You say you miss Wonder Wart-Hog? Bay Area publishers plan to correst that loss by publishing two volumes of The Best of Wonder Wart-Hog. Forecast as large, high quality paperbacks (about the size and price of the $2.50 Best of Rip-Off Press published earlier this year), the first WW-H will cover the Hog of Steel's college years (1961-3) from the Texas Ranger, the second will be a collection of later magazine pieces including CycleToons, Drag CarToons, etc. (Due to problems of scheduling, the second and more polished volume will be ready before the first. Print Mint will publish the second volume and Rip-Off Press the first.)

Shelton is also at work on the third Freak Brothers comic for release at the end of 1973 entitled Freak Brothers Retire to the Country.

The Print Mint has announced nine 50¢ titles ready by mid-summer, the first five saw release in late June, and the remaining four in July. They are:

Occult Laff Parade, Savage Humor (with work by Mike Royer, Siegel, and Simon), Deviant Slice #2 (art by Irons and scripting by Tom Veitch), Yellow Dog #25, Guano, Show And Tell Comix (by Justin Green, and its a sequel to Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary), Meef Comix #2, Tales of Sex And Death #2 (with Roger Brand as the editor and a contributing artist, plus other top artists in quasi-humorous horror tales), and San Francisco Comic Book #4.

Last Gasp plans to put out eight books all at once in late August-September.

Krupp in Milmaukee has published four books as of early August. They are:

High Adventure #1 (Mike Royer and others), Tales From the Fridge #1 (with art by Russ Jones and Bhob Stewart, and a cover parody of a Jack Davis cover from Tales of The Crypt #42), Bizarre Sex #3, and Death Rattle #3.

Rip-Off Press is bringing out a new title for possible release in September called Jesus Comix #3. It will be by Foolbert Sturgeon, the creator of New Adventures of Jesus, Jesus Meets the Armed Services, Amazon Comix, and others. In this comic Jesus enters the academic community.

The L.A. Comicbook Co. has plans for two new books by the end of the year. They are:

L.A. Comics #2, and (in full color) Weird Fantasies #2 at 50¢ each.

Grim-Wit #2, from Last Gasp was released in June, along with three other titles. Grim-Wit is an all Corben issue in full color for 75¢, as was his Fantagor #'s 3 and 4. The other June releases were:

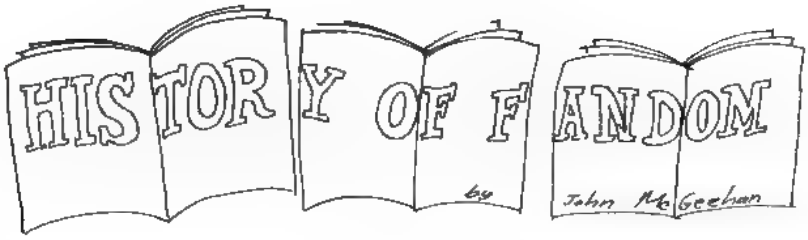
Harold Hedd #2 (which contained more humorous tales of the Canadian hipster by Rand Holmes), Tales of the Leather Nun #1 (by Dave Sheridan, Spain, and others), and All Canadian Beaver (by Rand Holmes).

There is no announced date yet for Skull #7, but it will presumably be out before the end of the summer.

There will be two stories illustrated by Corben adapted for the comix. They are A Boy and His Dog by Harlan Ellison and A Feast Un-Known by Philip Jose Farmer. They are due out from Last Gasp, however there has not been a release date announced as of yet.

Jim Vadeboncoeur informs us that Promethean#5 is not yet out as was reported in TCR # 99. It will be published as soon as a few difficulties can be solved.

NOTE: Upon release, all above mentioned comix (except Promethean #5) may be ordered from the Comic Collector Shop, 73 East San Fernando, San Jose, California 95113. Postage charge is 5¢ per item on orders under $3. Orders of $3 or more are sent postpaid. All publishers and dealers request that all orders for underground comix be accompanied by a signed statement that you are over 18!!



Every Science Fantasy fan knows that the first science fiction fanzine was published in 1932 and the first World Science Fiction Convention was held in 1939. From this humble beginning science fantasy fandom grew to the "highly efficient and smooth rolling organization" that it is today. (If you believe that last statement you are more ignorant than a lowly neo.) There have always been a few people who have been actively interested in more than science fantasy, and those individuals are known as double, triple, or even quadruple fans according to the number of things that they are interested in. A number of these people include the field of comic art among thier hobbies and over the years they have published an unknown, but small, quantity of material dealing with comic art and principally comic books.

In September of 1960, Mr. Richard Lupoff published the first issue of his sf zine, XERO, and included among its contents the first of a series of articles published on comics entitled "All In Color For A Dime". January of 1961 saw the publication of the third issue and, like its predecessors, its readers were double and multi fans, and not persons solely interested in comics. Dr. Jerry G. Bails was visiting his long-time friend, Julius Schwartz, in New York. Dr. Bails and Roy Thomas had been working on an amateur publication dealing exclusively with comic books and Mr. Schwartz showed Bails his copy of Xero and informed him of the existance of organized science fiction fandom convinced him that the world's first all comic fanzine would be a success.

The comic reading public first learned of the existance of Jerry Bails when a letter of his was published in the Justice League #5 (Feb.-March '61) with a note from the editor stating that Bails was one of the fortunate few to have amassed a collection of All-Stars with the Justice Society. This must have started a number of people into wanting to write Dr. Bails but, like me, they probably drew a blank when trying to get his address from the Detroit phone book down at the public library. Jerry's next letter was published in Brave and Bold # 35 (Aptil- May '61), along with letters from Ron Haydock and Ron Graham, and fortunately the complete addresses of all three were given. This not only allowed me And others to get in touch with Jerry, but it enable Jerry to contact the other two.

On my part, I sent Jerry a copy of Flush #1 (an sf fanzine that contained my first published comic material) and a request for an index to All-Star Comics. I received in return a letter dated March 2, 1961 with a fairly complete handwritten index of the comic and news of the forthcoming first issue of Alter-Ego. I then sent him a long letter which included the names and addresses of a few, but all, comic fans and dealers that I knew of that would be interested in receiving his fanzine. This was the start of a long correspondance with the Wayne State University professor.

Ron Graham and Ron Haydock contributed some more names to Jerry's roster of AE receivers and with the additional names gleaned from Xero and those supplied by Mr. Schwartz, the first batch of copies were distributed to a responsible number of persons, including a few who were already active or familiar with sf fandom.

While Alter Ego was the first of all comic zines to see print, it was not the first one planned. Unaware of the existance of Jerry Bails, a long-time devotee of comic art, Donald Thompson, was working on the first issue of his all comic art zine, entitled, appropriately enough, Comic Art. His first issue appeared just a few weeks after AE #1 and his excellent contribution to Xero #4 ("Okay Axis, Here we Come", covering the old Timely Comics) was completely written before AE made the scene. Unlike AE, which specializes in comics, CA is devoted to the entire

field of comic art, including books, strips, and political cartoons. The pre-publication advertising card on Comic Art was sent mainly to the subscribers of Xero who were known to be comic enthusiasts; but fortunately all other persons known to be interested in the field also received a copy. I got one entirely thanks to my material in Flush and the plug for Xero on the card enabled me to acquire a copy of Lupoff's publication, which saw distribution in the same month as did Comic Art #1 (April '61).

Alter Ego was published by the same ditto process, and unfortunately, the black masters gave out before the purple ones did and Jerry wound up with 150 copies of a complete AE #1, and 75 copies minus Roy Thomas' satirical "Bestest League of America" comic strip. Bails printed 300 copies of the second issue, and it took an ad in Fantasy Collector to sell them out. A third issue came out in the fall of 1961 and it quickly went out of print thanks to a plug for the zine published in Justice League #[illegible]. It was this plug, as well as similar ones in monster magazines and other comics, that brought in a flood of the strickly-comics addict, composed of neos and kiddies from the general public into fandom, without which fandom doesn't number enough to get anything worthwhile done.

The first issue of the Comic Collector came out in September of '61, and it started out as the ad-zine of comics fandom.

October 4, 1961 saw the first seperately published issue of On The Drawing Broard (later changed to The Comic Reader), and this newsletter was more responsible than any other item for keeping comics fandom from dying out. It not only came out often but one could get it for merely an s.a.e. 200 copies of it were sent to pros alone, so it is no wonder that it obtained a print run of a thousand copies per issue.

The last month of 1961 saw the birth of The Rocket's Blast, but it came without fanfare as no one knew the zine existed outside of the six persons who received its four pages of typed carbon-copied material.

The second issue of Comic Art had come out sometime previous (Aug. 1961), but it went unnoticed by all except the lucky few who received a copy of its 125 copy print-run.

The fourth of all comic zines was Spot-Lite and it was a sad day when such mundane things as school work and low grades forced its publisher (P.L. Holman) to discontinue it.

Headline was the fifth of the all comic zines, and Steve Gerber was responsible for its 34 page first issue that came out in May of '62.

Komik Illustrated & The Comic Fan saw distribution in July of 1962. The former was published by The White House Of Comics (Billy Joe White), and it was also a sad day when his tenth and final issue saw print in May of 1963. Buddy Saunders started the latter, and the zine was a continual credit to the field of amateur publications.

John Wright of South Africa put out his first issue of The Komik in August of 1962, and the proof of the high quality of the fan fiction within its 48 pages is that Mr. Wright has since turned pro.

The month of September saw the birth of two new zines: Super Hero and Masquerader. Mike Tuchey was responsible for the 28 pages of Super Hero #1 and the main fault with it was that the demand for it exceeded its 200-copy print run. Masquerader was the work of Mike Vosburg and he had a sure winner on his hand with a first issue containing 54 pages of quality dittoed material for only 25¢.

November 1962 marks the date that the second issue of Walt Taylor's Comicscope made the scene and it contained nothing of importance within its pages. The first one had come out early in the year; but it contained only one poorly dittoed sheet of advertising propaganda for the next issue. The prize for the first and best crud comic fanzine, though, goes to The Amazing World Of Comics, of which the first and only issue amounted to a 'mimeo mess' of eleven sheets of 22 pages consisting of a 17 page tracing of a story from an old 1950's Sub-Mariner story, five blank pages, and a mailing page.

The final month of '62 heralded two zines. One was Bob Jennings' Comic World which was acclaimed by pros and fans alike as being the best comic zine then published. Fred Bronson's Bullseye was the other zine, and it can be considered a sample of the average amateur publication.

For the technical minded, myself included, I will have to note Gordon B. Love's Comic Heroes Unlimited, which had its first issue in the mail around July '62 and its second and final one in August of the same year. Though it didn't carry much in the way of material, and what little it did could have been put in Love's other zine, The Rocket's Blast, it was still a comic zine and the only reason it wasn't before is that I'm unaware of the exact month it appeared. Bernie Bubnis Jr.'s Comic Heroes Revisited is another zine that saw its first issue in 1962 that I don't know the exact month in which it was first distributed. This zine too lasted only two issues, and the second one saw distribution in 1963.

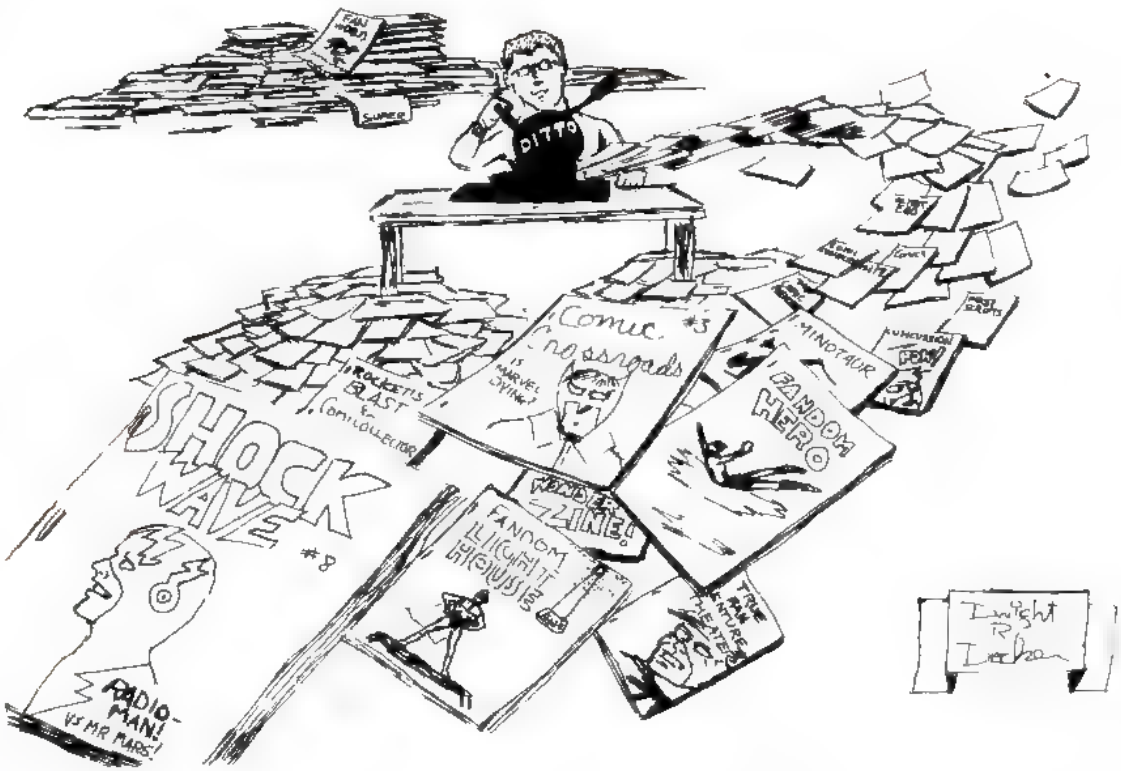
Good, bad, or excellent, most of these zines had one thing in common. Not one of them ever sold over 250 copies of any one issue, and the average was less than 150 copies.

Therefore, despite repeated plugs and ads for the zines in almost every issie of Alter Ego, Comic Collector, and The Comic Reader, over half of comicdom was buying only the aforementioned top zines and not bothering about getting any of the others.

1963 is when the crudzines began to appear in quantity. They were put out by newcomers with little experience, money, and knowhow. Even the ones that had good material usually spoiled it with poor reproduction that made the issue difficult if not nigh impossible to read. Oh, good through excellent zines were published, but one can't tell the good from the crud until one sees the fanzine itself, and most fans weren't going to gamble their time and money. They wanted to know the zine was going to be worth the tab before shelling out for it.

When this article was written in July of 1964, many things had happened since Xero #1 came out 46 months before. Alter Ego had changed hands from Jerry Bails to Ronn Foss to Biljo White to Roy Thomas, who though now pro, still has it today. TCR went from Bails, its originator, to Glen Johnson. Johnson, a school teacher on an Indian reservation in Utah, is now still involved with fandom, at least to the extent of naintaining membership in Capa-Alpha and collecting original art. TCR later went to Mark Hanerfeld, finally, who published it until his work for DC cut into his time and forced discontinuation. G.B. Love's The Rocket's Blast had gone from its humble carbon-paper beginning to merge with The Comic Collector and become the top zine of fandom. Love's Fighting Hero Comics was still going strong in July of '64 in its first incarnation, while the Texas Trio's Star-Studded Comics made even the pros sit up and take notice with the use of four-color covers. Old greats had folded, and newcomers planned to use the defunct titles for their own publications in the hopes of assuring their zines' success. Crudzines had come and gone with more ever on the way to replace those that had fallen. Growth was rapid, and newcomers continued putting out zines surpassing the greats of yestermonth. Local conventions had been held, and hopes were expressed that a world comic convention could one day be held just as comic fandom's older cousin in sf did back in '39. A convention was going to be held in New York that year, and though it appeared that attendance would be small, it would be a start.

It's been almost two years since I updated this article for True Fan Adventure Theater #7. Since then a number of excellent publications have come into existance that more than make up for the greatly reduced quantity of comics slanted amateur publications being published today compared to the volume put out in the mid and late 1960's. Jerome Sinkovec produces an indispensable weekly tabloid for "adventure strippers" (fans of the adventure newspaper comic strips) entitled The Menomonee Falls Gazette and also has a companion pub called The Menomonee Falls Guardian for devotees of some of the top humor strips. Alan Light not only produces a biweekly adzine called The Buyer's Guide for Comics Fandom, but he has also put out a new publication for "strippers" that is entitled Golden Funnies and it reprints old Sunday adventure strips. Richard Kyle puts out a superb publication entitled WonderWorld (formerly Graphic Story World) that covers the entire field of comic art and contains info, news, reviews, et al on a wide variety of foreign and domestic items and subjects. Paul Levitz brought The Comic Reader out of limbo and his coverage of forth-



coming Marvel and National comics alone is invaluable to anyone interested in what and when the comics are due out and the contents therein. Bob Overstreet has just published the third edition of The Comic Book Price Guide and even if one doesn't care for the price data, the info on the comics and cover repros are worth the tab to anyone needing a fraction of the data found within. These publications not only have a proven record of coming out on time, but baring an unforseen calamity they should all continue to see print for many years to come and any new items produced by their publishers will automatically receive the same attention needed to make them an equal success.

It is understandable why some fans are bored of attending comic cons and bemoan the "good old days" when comic fandom was new and a novelty. No one likes the ever increasing prices asked and paid for material and some pessimists are convinced that comics are shortly going the way of the pulps and dime novels. There are many top quality defunct zines that I miss getting, but I certainly do not miss the early days of fandom when one didn't know how many issues of most Golden Age titles were published, much less the dates or their contents. Nor do I miss the period not too long ago when there was no TCR after Hanerfeld quit and before Levitz assumed command. Worthwhile and worthless pubs and publishers have and will continue to come and go as long as fandom exists. A certain month in a certain year in the past may have rated higher on a total score card fannish wise then this current one, but I believe that the previously mentioned pubs along with other worthwhile additions to comicania in the past two years have made this a very worthwhile period to be an active fan.

The preceeding article first appeared in issue number seven of Dwight R. Decker's original True Fan Adventure Theatre in 1971, under the title "Comicdom." It has been updated by the author and is reprinted by the permission of both the author and the original publisher.

The illustration on this page is by Dwight Decker. The title logo is by Carl Gafford.

ROGUE'S GALLERY

A fanzine lasts only as long as its editor's interest. This is true with virtually every fanzine that has seen publication.

In the past twelve years of fandom there have been many fanzines that have come and gone with the editors. In fact, there have been only three fanzines that have survived for any considerable length of time. Two of them, Newfan.lets and The Rocket's Blast-Comic Collector, survived for five years and twelve years respectively. They, however, have had one editor on them for their durations. The third fanzine on that list is The Comic Reader. This zine began twelve years ago under the editorship of Jerry Bails.

The first issue of The Comic Reader was actually a part of Alter-Ego #1, the first fanzine published by Bails. In fact, TCR was being called On The Drawing Board and did not get the name that it presently holds till the eighth issue. Jerry edited and published the first twenty-five issues of OTDB/TCR. For the most part, Bails early issues of TCR ran no more than two pages and concentrated on news on Julie Schwartz's books.

With the twelveth issue of the newszine, Jerry expanded to nine pages and stayed at about that page count until his last issue.

One would think that, as with most fanzines, the zine would fold with the editor's departure. This was not the case with TCR. Jerry Bails pasted the title on to Glen D. Johnson in New Mexico.

Johnson put the fanzine through a reorganization by adding art to the zine, as well as other things, including regular columns by several people.

Glen did TCR until #41, after which it was handed over to Derrill Rothermich. Rothermich put TCR through a really major change of appearance. He was the first TCR editor to publish the newszine photo-offset. Covers became a regular feature. And, such great fan artists as Bill Dubay did art regularly.

Glen Johnson made TCR the offical newsletter of the Acadamy of Comic Book Fans And Collectors, and, with #48, switched the title back to On The Drawing Board, the title which remained with the zine until Mark Hanerfeld changed it again with #68.

Robert Schoenfeld took over the zine with #50 to become the fourth editor for the zine in the space of five years.

Schoenfeld reverted back to ditto for a few issues after he took over, but changed it back to offset again.

Schoenfeld's issues of OTDB contained much art and columns. There was work by Bill Dubay, Rich Buckler, Len Wein, and several other fan artists throughout the pages of the zine.

While Schoenfeld published the zine for the Gateway Comic Book Fan Club, Dave Kaler did much of the writing for the magazine.

On The Drawing Board #64 was the last one for Bob Schoenfeld and friends. Mark Hanerfeld, then, became the fifth editor to work on OTDB/TCR.

Mark took OTDB and changed it to the extent that it became a pure newszine. The zine had news on all the comic companies, as well as news on paperback book companies and other related fields. Also, John McGeehan began to do a regular fanzine review column for the zine.

Mark edited The Comic Reader until #77 when, because of a lack of time, he had to give it up. Mark's issues of OTDB/TCR featured a first for the title. He was the first editor to get cover reproductions for publication from the companies, notably National.

Mark's last issue of TCR came out in the early part of 1970. The first one edited by Paul Levitz appeared in October of 1971, leaving a gap of almost two years where the subscribers of TCR didn't know what was going on in comics (or with their sub money, for that matter). Anyway, as the sixth editor of TCR in twelve years, Levitz built up the magazine to where it is today... the largest and most reliable newszine but.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Nostalgia. That's the magic word, isn't it? It unlocks visions of other eras, simpler ones perhaps... certainly eras remembered more fondly than recent history. What are you nostalgic about? Comic books, probably. Otherwise why would you be here?

Maybe because you can be nostalgic about comic book fandom now. Maybe after twelve or so years there is a past to comic fandom, a generation gone by whose names are either lost in the mists of time or gone on to that strange world, so close yet so far, known as the comic book profession. Jerry Bails...Roy Thomas ...Don and Maggie Thompson...Dick Lupoff...now gone on to other things, raising a family, earning a living, or perhaps "elder statesman" status. Nonetheless ....they are very much a part of today's fandom, because it was their energies which helped make it possible to create fandom.

And maybe that's why there's a one hundredth issue of a fanzine...a bastard name for an unwanted step-child of the real world. Maybe that's why six people devoted countless hours of their time to attempting to inform their fellow fans about what was happening in the industry that their hobbies revolved around. Maybe that's why a comic convention can now attract over six and a half thousand people. Maybe that's why fanzine print runs are now in the thousands, instead of the fives.

Maybe that's why all this came to pass. Maybe that's why we're all here today. And maybe, if we're all very lucky...we'll all be here in another dozen years celebrating a quarter-century of comics fandom. I don't doubt it. With the effort that an ever-growing circle of people are pouring into fandom, most of whom have no real monetary interest in the field, it's a safe bet that fandom isn't on its way out. And if current trends are any indication, it's safe to say that that's a big part of why comics are beginning to be acknowledged as a part of the real world--not just a freak of nature with its life-span limited by its very birth.

Enough. The rest is said by the very existance of this issue. If you are the type who reads editorials first, then please stop here and go back and read the issue. If you're finished with the issue, then pass go and proceed to the business portion of this column...

* *

Since this is a double issue, there will be no September issue of The Comic Reader. The Coming Comics that would have appeared in that issue are included in this one. Your subscription label has had one extra issue dropped from it, so your sub expires one issue earlier. Anyone dissatisfied with this arrrangement can write me a note, as long as they promise to send a carbon to their headshrinker.

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

FOURTH WORLD NUTS

My big 100th issue surprise is that starting with the October issue, there will be a new name on the masthead of TCR, and a new look to the magazine. After three years of grinding out the news, month after month, I'm "retiring" from the fanzine business. Those magnificent munchkins from Menomonee Falls, Jerry Sinkovec and Mike Tiefenbacher, will be the new publishers and editors, with an assist from "editor emeritus" me.

I've enjoyed doing The Comic Reader immensely, and I think I've done a pretty good job. I broke open the news barrier at Marvel, and opened the doors at DC a bit wider, not to mention finally putting TCR on a schedule after 12 years and raising the circulation to 3,500 copies an issue. My retirement is not being caused by discontent with fandom or fanzines, but merely that there are now other things which must occupy my time. The New York University College of Business & Public Administration insists on my presence two days a week (and the completion of occasional homeworks and the like), and I have the opportunity to remain on staff at DC the other three days a week (which coincidentally pays for the other two days, not to mention any activities or persons who I might be pursuing on vacations and weekends). I will continue to help Jerry and Mike as long as they need me, and if there are any special fan projects which I can find time for, I'll still be publishing.

Etcetera will run to #5 to exaust the material which is already completed, and will probably be available from both Street Enterprises in Menomonee Falls and TCR Pubs.

All subscriptions will be honored by the new editors, and all freebie subs will be continued (or I'll kill them) so don't worry. Any renewals accidentally mailed to me will be forwarded, but here's the new editorial address:

STREET ENTERPRISES
POST OFFICE BOX 255
MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS. 53051

As I look back over my years as the editor of The Comic Reader I realize that really is an incredibly large group of people whom I owe thank yous to. First of all, my parents who picked up the dirty daily chores involved in The Comic Reader when I got too pressed to handle them. My staff--the writers, artists, collators, and most of all friends, who sweated so long in my cause. The people at all the professional companies, who endured endless hours of questions, requests, and annoyances. And my private spy system and mentor, who knows damn well who he is. Thank YOU all for being a part of this magazine.

In closing, thank you readers for your constant flow of kind words and confidence, and I hope that there is <u>always</u> a Comic Reader for you to turn to for regular, reliable reporting.

Have fun,

Paul Levitz

by carl gafford

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The Menomonee Falls Gazette

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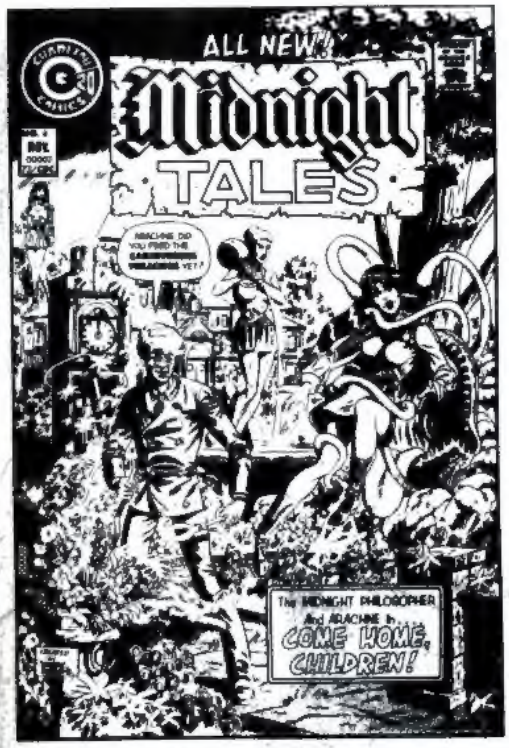
(The GAZETTE now handles all overseas subscriptions and distribution. Dealers inquire).

CHARLTON



Pat Boyette has been taken off THE PHANTOM and moved over to THE CHEYENNE KID. Phantom covers will now be illoed by Jim Aparo, and the general idea is to make the book look more realistic and similar to the syndicated strip. I've seen the Comicbook Guide that they're offering with a $1.00 subscription and I recommend it highly, if only to give you a better understanding of the technical side of the business. Covers (c) 1973 Charlton Publications, Inc.